OBAMA SEEKS WORLDWIDE NUKE BAN, PG8

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VANCOUVER • MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009 metronews.ca

Workology

Writer makes 'em laugh
pg 20

Celebrity Buzz

Palin's almost son-in-law blabs
pg 26

Man's death possibly gang-related

JEFF HODSON
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SHOOTING Another man was shot and killed in a possible gang-style shooting in East Vancouver, said police yesterday, following the high-profile arrests of alleged members of the Red Scorpions gang.

The man was shot in the parking lot of a Boston Pizza near Renfrew Street and Grandview Highway before midnight Saturday. He was slumped-over dead in the driver's seat of a white Lincoln Navigator when police arrived.

"This appears to be a targeted shooting," said Vancouver Const. Jana McGuinness. "Further investigation will reveal whether there are any links to gang activity."

On Friday, police across Greater Vancouver arrested three men for their alleged part in the murder of six people at a Surrey apartment in 2007 (See story, page 2.)

Suspect shot by Vancouver police officer

HOSPITALIZED A man was shot by police in East Vancouver last night.

He suffered non life-threatening injuries and was taken to hospital after being hit by the single shot fired by police.

Officers arrived at Union Street and Dunleavy Avenue, near the east end of the Georgia Viaduct, at about 5 p.m. looking for a stolen Ford F350 pickup truck.

A man attempted to flee after an unmarked police car blocked his escape route. He continued to spin his tires even as the truck was boxed in by other police cars, police said.

According to Const. Jana McGuinness, that's when an officer fired a single shot, which hit the man.

METRO VANCOUVER

Open house **Expansion revealed**

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

People walk through the ballroom of the Vancouver convention centre expansion during a public open house yesterday. In all, 63,600 people visited the newly completed Vancouver Convention Centre West during the two-day event. Story, pg 2

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Participants at a rally held in the West End yesterday.

Marchers seek hate crime tag

Want assaults on gays labelled

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Around 200 people marched down Davie Street yesterday, and roughly 1,000 more joined the group at its Beach Avenue terminus, to demand hate crime designations for violence against gays and lesbians.

Rally-goers also raised money for the family of Richie Dowrey, who remains in grave condition after being attacked at the Fountainhead Pub on March 13.

Dowrey's friend Lindsay Wincherauk said Dowrey was punched in the head and called a "faggot" in what he said was an unprovoked attack.

"The sickening sound of his head hitting the tile has played over and over in my head," Wincherauk said. "(His attacker) stole the feeling of safety for all of us, and if he isn't punished accordingly, we all lose."

NDP MLA Spencer Herbert, who lives in the West End with his partner, said the community is reclaiming its streets.

"Progress is going to take time because (hate) is taught."
Denise Norman, cousin of a victim

"Gay bashing is a hate crime," he said. "The violence has to be labelled."

Herbert said the prevalence of gay marriage and gay TV shows doesn't mean our society is tolerant and accepting — yet.

"We have much more work to do," he said.

Denise Norman's cousin Aaron Webster was beaten to death in 2001 in an area of Stanley Park frequented by gay men.

She said stories like Webster's and Dowrey's need to be told so people don't forget.

"Progress is going to take time because (hate) is taught," Norman said. "Hopefully kids will be talking about this in schools (tomorrow)."

ShareYourViews
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Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Lugers sell helmet space

Canada's top luge athletes will have a sponsor when they arrive in Vancouver for the 2010 Olympics. The team put up "for sale" ads on their helmets earlier this year and the campaign attracted the attention of a title sponsor that will be announced tomorrow. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Renter's permit vote

Vancouver residents looking to rent out their homes to Olympic visitors during the 2010 Winter Games may be forced to get a $150 permit from city hall. Currently, residents are not allowed to rent under 30 days. City council votes on the proposal tomorrow.

CBC NEW ONLINE

Sentencing 'bittersweet'

Victim's family happy over guilty plea, but still miss son

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Eileen Mohan says she never lost faith that the person who murdered her 22-year-old son in their Surrey apartment would be caught.

After 18 months, her patience was rewarded with the arrest of Dennis Karbovanec, 28, an alleged member of the Red Scorpions gang who on Thursday will be sentenced in the murder of Chris Mohan and two other men.

"It's bittersweet," Mohan told Metro Vancouver yesterday. "It's good to have a face to the individual who took your son's life, but it will never bring Chris back."

Karbovanec was arrested and immediately pleaded guilty on Friday to second-degree murder in the deaths of Mohan, Ryan Bartolomeo, 19, and Michael Lal, 26, who were killed along with three other men in a Surrey highrise in October 2007.

Mohan and another man, Ed Schellenberg, were innocent victims in the now infamous gang hit.

On Saturday, police arrested and charged three other men in connection with the six execution-style murders.

James Kyle Bacon, 23, an alleged Red Scorpions Gang leader, was arrested outside his Abbotsford home and charged with first-degree murder in the death of Cory Lal, 21, and co-conspiring in the killings.

Cody Ray Haevischer and Matthew James Johnson, both 24, were also charged with first-degree murder.

Steve Brown, Schellenberg's brother-in-law, said he's relieved.

"(But) this is a whole different thing for me to cope with (now) — having a face and a name (to Schellenberg's murderer)."

Mohan and Brown said that the public had been hasty in criticizing police for not solving the murders earlier.

"This is a time to write good stories about our police," Brown said.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A large spinning globe welcomes visitors to the Vancouver Convention Centre West yesterday.

News in brief

GARBAGE JUNKride 2009, a bicycle trek from Vancouver to Mexico, started at the Vancouver Aquarium on Saturday. The rider is to spread awareness about plans to clean a patch of garbage, three times the size of Quebec, in the Pacific Ocean.

POLITICS The Green Party of B.C. has announced four new candidates for the upcoming provincial election. There are now 59 Green Party of B.C. candidates confirmed to be running.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Comment Guidy Mamann looks at the George Galloway case and the legal quandary that it creates for Canada's immigration service.

Lotteries

Friday, April 3
Lotto Super 7: 2, 10, 11, 22, 33, 38 & 45 Bonus 41
Extra: 1, 14, 95, 96
Saturday, April 4
Lotto 6/49: 17, 20, 22, 37, 40 & 48 Bonus 33
BC 49: 9, 10, 16, 30, 31 & 41 Bonus 6
Extra: 44, 53, 64, 69
These results are not official.

Charges in 2004 diamond ring killing

PROMISE An alleged member of the UN Gang has been charged with the 2004 murder of a man selling an engagement ring.

Chief Const. Doug Lepard said that new evidence led police to a man jailed in Ontario on drug charges.

On Jan. 6, 2004, police arrived at a building on Haro Street to find the body of Marc Rozen, who was advertising a platinum solitaire ring for sale. The ring was never recovered and it is believed to be the motive for the murder, Lepard said.

Michael Bruce Newman, an alleged member of the UN gang, has been charged with killing Rozen.

Jack and Doreen Rozen, said the two Vancouver police officers who broke the news of their son's death promised that an arrest would be made.

"They kept their promise," the Rozens said in a statement. "It is a tribute to these two outstanding (officers) and to the entire Vancouver police force that a suspect has been charged today with the tragic death of our son."

METRO VANCOUVER

Dancers come from far and wide for shot at show

AUDITIONS Jittery contestants — many of whom kept warm by dancing on the sidewalk — starting lining up as early as 4:30 a.m. in Vancouver to audition for the second season of So You Think You Can Dance Canada.

Hopefuls came from as far away as Alberta to try out for the popular reality talent show at the Centre in Vancouver For Performing Arts on Saturday.

Many competitors had returned for a second year after being cut during auditions last time, while others were out for their first time.

The audition tour will be in Edmonton tomorrow before heading east to St. John, N.B., and Toronto, ending in Montreal on May 26.

At the end of the tour, judges will whittle down the successful candidates through a series of intense choreography sessions until the top 20 finalists are chosen in Toronto.

METRO VANCOUVER

PHOTO COURTESY CTV

So You Think You Can Dance Canada contestants line up outside the Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts on Saturday.

New centre 'impressive'

JEFF HODSON
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OPENING More than 63,000 people showed up to a housewarming party at the province's $883-million Vancouver convention centre expansion this weekend.

Vancouver Convention Centre West, which officially opened Friday, triples the exhibition space of the original convention centre at Canada Place.

The facilities are expected to generate $2 billion in economic activity through 184 upcoming events.

"It's very impressive," said Dan Cloutier of Vancouver (not the goalie), who was among the almost 40,000 people taking part in an open house yesterday.

"Despite all the criticisms it has received for cost overruns, I think it is a fantastic investment."

The expansion features Canada's largest living roof (2.4 hectares) and holds five million kilograms of soil, 400,000 native plants and three beehives.

The building's interior walls are designed to evoke stacked lumber. Five-storey windows look out over Coal Harbour and Burrard Inlet and flood the building with natural light.

"Imagine coming out of a meeting and a cruise ship is tied up at Canada Place with mountains in the background," said Cloutier. "It's spectacular."

Games

- Vancouver Convention Centre West will hold the International Media Centre during the 2010 Games.

Google crews to shoot street-level photos
Google is sending crews to Vancouver and other Canadian cities to shoot high-resolution street-level photos — that include pedestrians — to give people elsewhere in the world the ability to virtually roam our streets and vice versa. People's faces will be blurred when Canada's version of Google Street View launches. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

News in brief

ENVIRONMENT A $5-million B.C. government initiative to plant trees as a way to offset greenhouse gas emissions is being criticized by environmentalists, CBC News Online reports. The David Suzuki Foundation said it can take decades for the trees to grow enough to make a difference, and the trees will eventually rot and release the greenhouse gas back into the atmosphere.

COURT DATE Linda Howe, the woman charged with shooting a staff member in a Gibsons care home last week, will make her first court appearance April 7, cknw.com reports. The bail hearing was delayed because she is still in hospital after being shot by police.

ABORIGINAL JOBS Canada's largest aboriginal employment recruitment fair is being held this morning at the Sheraton Wall Centre in downtown Vancouver.

SENTENCING A man convicted of targeting and repeatedly burglarizing the home of a 91-year-old Burnaby man will be handed his sentence in Vancouver Provincial Court this morning.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Politician's sister slain

Victim related to former city councillor Peter Ladner

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The family of a woman found slain on a trail in a forested area near the University of British Columbia described her as a "source of joy, love and inspiration for everyone she met."

The body of Wendy Ladner-Beaudry, 53, sister of former city councillor Peter Ladner, was discovered Friday afternoon by a hiker along a trail in Pacific Spirit Park, near 41st Avenue and Camosun Street.

"She has worked tirelessly to encourage physical activity and promote sport, especially for women," the family said in a statement. "She died doing what she loved most."

Ladner-Beaudry is survived by her husband Michel Beaudry, her daughters Maya, 21, and Jenna, 16, and her five siblings Nancy Edmonds and Jinny, Peter, Stephen and Chris Ladner.

"We would ask anyone who had any knowledge of suspicious behaviour in the area to notify police and help us take back this park for the safe enjoyment of everyone, especially the women who enjoy it so much," the family said.

It is believed that Ladner-Beaudry was jogging when she was attacked. Police have not said how she died. The family said they were "devastated by this random, senseless act of violence."

Homicide investigators scoured the park Friday and Saturday with police dogs and a search and canvass team. They also conducted a grid and an aerial search of Pacific Spirit Park.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Wendy Ladner-Beaudry is seen in an undated photo supplied by her family. Ladner-Beaudry was found slain near UBC.

"She has worked tirelessly to encourage physical activity and promote sport, especially for women. She died doing what she loved most."
Family statement

Cops confirm dead baby discovered in bag a boy

INVESTIGATION Police have confirmed that a baby found stuffed inside a plastic bag in East Vancouver last week was a little boy.

The results of an autopsy, which are expected this week, will likely determine how the newborn died.

Const. Jana McGuinness said it's too early to say with certainty if the baby was murdered, but police are treating his death as suspicious.

In the meantime, police are still appealing to the infant's mother or anyone who knows her to contact authorities.

The baby was discovered between two houses in the 2500 block of Charles Street by a resident late Thursday morning.

Neighbours reacted with shock at the discovery, saying the area is quiet and safe, with many young families living nearby.

METRO VANCOUVER

NDP continuing ad campaign

The B.C. NDP is releasing a major new TV ad for the pre-election period this morning. The ad follows closely on the heels of one launched last week that contrasted the Liberal record on crime against NDP proposals. METRO VANCOUVER

Canucks lose family member

Carly Bragnalo, fiancée of forward Tyler Pyatt, killed in car accident

Vancouver Canucks forward Taylor Pyatt has returned home to Thunder Bay, Ont., after his fiancée died in a car crash while on vacation in Jamaica.

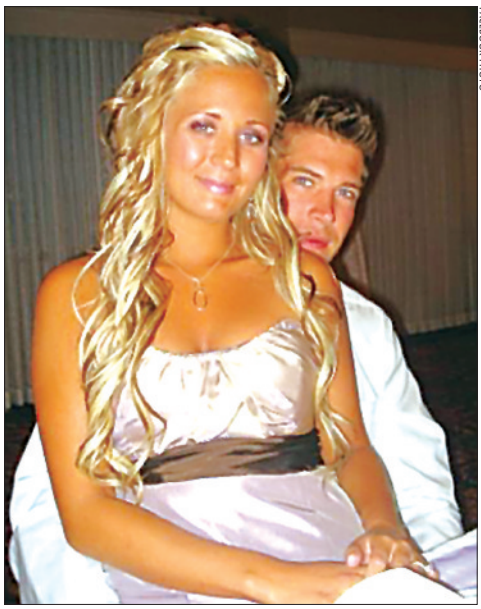
Carly Bragnalo was 27. The high school sweethearts were to be married this summer after 11 years together.

"Today the Canucks lost a member of our family," GM Mike Gillis said in a statement. "Carly was a lovely and generous young woman who shared her spirit for life with our players, their spouses and their extended families. We will support the Bragnalo family, Taylor and his entire family in any way we can during this very difficult time."

Bragnalo was killed in a single-car accident in St. Elizabeth, in western Jamaica, early on Friday.

She was in a taxi with four other passengers when the driver lost control while negotiating a corner.

Her mother, Debbie Bragnalo, was also seriously injured and remains in hospital in Jamaica.



FACEBOOK PHOTO

Vancouver Canucks forward Taylor Pyatt and fiancée Carly Bragnalo in a Facebook photo. The high school sweethearts were to be married this summer.

Pyatt's family has issued a statement asking for privacy.

"At this difficult period, the family would request to be given the time to grieve in private," the statement said. "We are focused on our son and the Bragnalo family. We thank you for your support and understanding."

Bragnalo's death is the second tragedy to strike the Canucks recently.

Ten months ago, defenceman Luc Bourdon, 21, died after losing control of his motorcycle and crashing against a tractor-trailer near his hometown of Shippagan, N.B.

METRO VANCOUVER

"Carly was a lovely and generous young woman who shared her spirit for life with our players, their spouses and their extended families."
Vancouver Canucks GM Mike Gillis

Who is watching you?

CRIME Vancouver and Surrey are among four B.C. cities sharing $1 million to buy cameras that would be placed in high-crime areas.

The closed-circuit cameras can help reduce violent and nuisance crimes, according to solicitor general John van Dongen.

"We're providing this funding because we believe people have the right to feel safe wherever they go in these cities," van Dongen said.

In Vancouver, $400,000 will be spent to monitor special events and emergencies. In Surrey, $330,000 will be used to monitor the Scott Road SkyTrain station and its commuter parking facility.

Kelowna and Williams Lake are also getting cameras.

METRO VANCOUVER

SkyTrain attendant gets award

ASSAULT A SkyTrain attendant has received a police commendation for coming to the aid of a constable being assaulted by a suspected auto thief.

Richard Ayotte and a SkyTrain passenger helped subdue a suspect who was punching, kicking and kneeing a New Westminster police officer after she placed one handcuff on the man's wrist.

The incident on March 16, 2008 began after the officer confronted a man suspected of leading police in a high-speed car chase earlier that day.

SkyTrain CEO Doug Kelsey said Ayotte's actions are a testament to his character and exemplify the high quality of SkyTrain staff. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

CRASH A man is dead after his car hit a tractor-trailer at the Highway 10 and King George Highway intersection in Surrey.

CRIME A 19-year-old repeat car thief has been arrested for stealing a bait car in Surrey, RCMP said. METRO VANCOUVER

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Iraq from	4.9 ¢	Syria	18.9 ¢
Israel	2.9 ¢	U.A.E	19.9 ¢

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Honduras	15.9 ¢	Chile	2.9 ¢
Panama from	3.9 ¢	Colombia from	3.9 ¢
Uruguay	7.9 ¢	Dominican Rep.	6.9 ¢
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PHOTO COURTESY CHAD WALTERS

Calan Breckon, Vancouver's newest Next Gay Top Model, at Celebrities Night Club.

Next Gay Top Model revealed

Vancouver has crowned its newest Next Gay Top Model at a grand finale show at Celebrities Night Club.

Calan Breckon, 22, took home the title after a three-month competition of challenges, charity work and public presentations.

The title comes with more than just bragging rights, with Breckon scoring a two-year modelling contract from I Model Management, photoshoots with photographer Nicholas Jang and a cover shot in Outlooks Magazine.

He also gets a flight for two to London, England courtesy of British Airways, a weekend getaway to Whistler courtesy gaywhistler.com, and a host of other goodies.

The race was so close that the second-place finisher will also be signed by the modelling agency.

The event raised more than $1,500 for local AIDS charity Friends for Life.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Advertising 'gag law' nixed

COURT Supporters of B.C.'s political parties are free to spend as much as they want on advertising.

The B.C. Supreme Court rejected a bid by the B.C. Attorney General's office to delay an earlier decision allowing unlimited third-party advertising in the 60-day pre-election period.

CUPE B.C., which usually spends on advertising supporting pro-labour candidates, is one of the organizations that challenged the so-called "gag law." METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

UBC CENTRE The construction of a major new centre at the University of British Columbia is expected to be announced today. According to UBC president Prof. Stephen Toope it will create jobs, train skilled workers, and position UBC as a global leader in a growing field. METRO VANCOUVER

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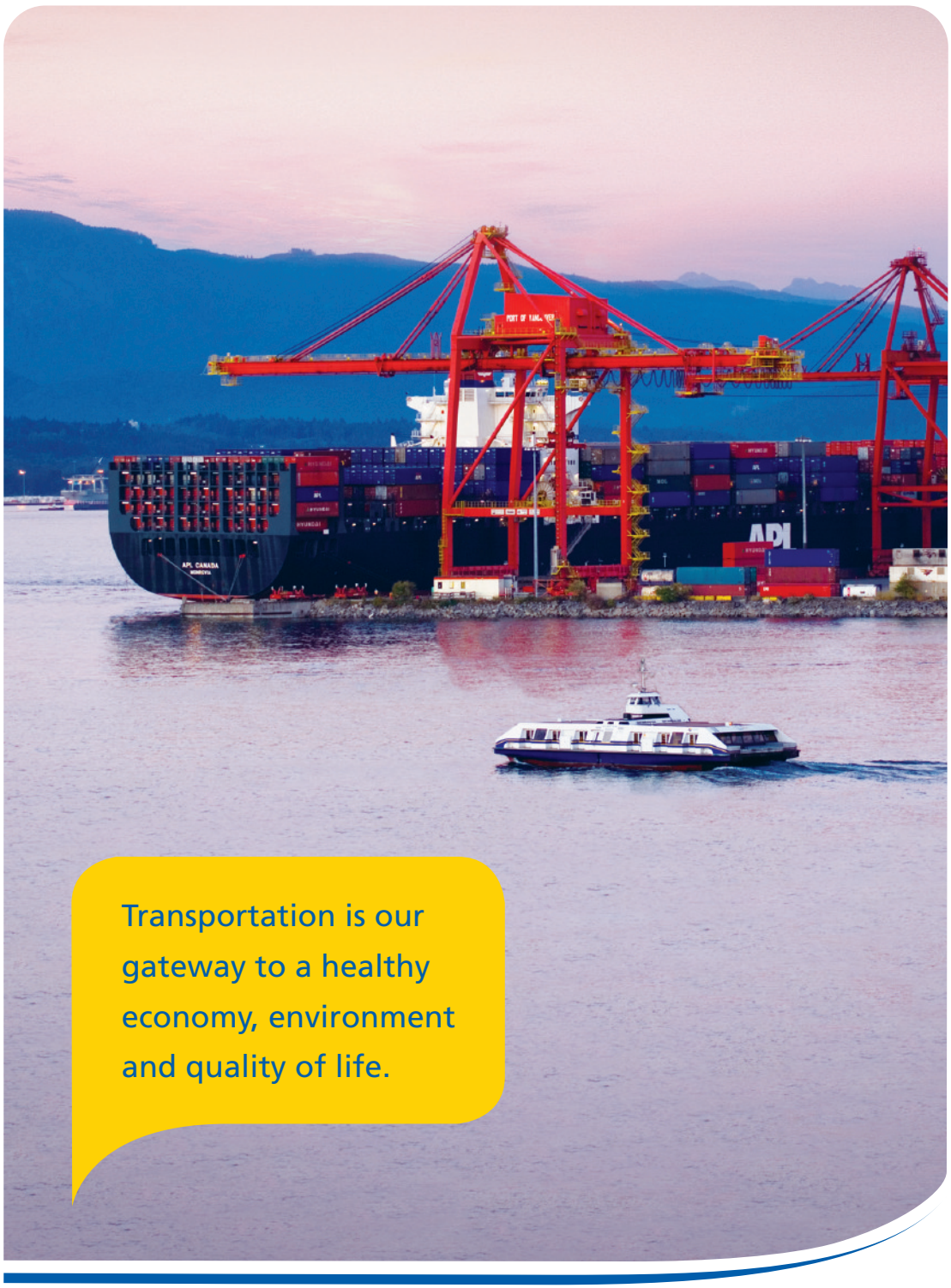

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TRANSLINK

Woman dies without inheritance

A Canadian widow living in Cuba whose fortune was trapped in a Boston bank by the U.S. trade embargo died Friday at the age of 108 without having ever gotten her money. Mary McCarthy died in her rundown Havana mansion after failing to get treatment for respiratory problems due to a shortage of cash, according to her godson. REUTERS

Canada

HIV-positive man guilty of murder

An HIV-positive Ontario man has been found guilty of first-degree murder in the deaths of two of his sex partners in what was considered a precedent-setting trial in Canada. The jury also convicted Johnson Aziga, left, 52, on 10 counts of aggravated sexual assault and one count of attempted aggravated sexual assault. Aziga, of Hamilton, had been accused of endangering the lives of 11 women by recklessly exposing them to the virus that causes AIDS. REUTERS

Paying it backward for kids

SunnySide

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

CHARITY More than 600 people lined up at a downtown Toronto coffee shop Saturday to buy a cup of joe for the person behind them, breaking the record of 490 people set in Seattle in 2007.

Pay it Backward Day, organized by Darius Basher, the founder of social networking website Daily Challenge, was a resounding success with 602 people joining the line at last count and all proceeds donated to the SickKids Hospital Foundation.

Hot beverage lovers endured the blustery weather in a long line outside the Second Cup at Queen and John streets for a chance to pay it backward.

"I feel totally humbled by the ability to work with such wonderful people in such an amazing city," Basher said yesterday.

This was not the first "doing good" idea for Basher and his Daily Challenge crew.

The 26-year-old said he had launched dailychallenge.org about four months ago and the site has since inspired hundreds of people from Toronto and around the world to commit small acts of kindness on a daily basis. But Pay it Backward is the biggest challenge developed by Basher and Daily Challenge members to date.

Students slack off: Study

Profs say immaturity, Wikipedia common among first-years

University professors feel their first-year students are less mature, rely too much on Wikipedia and "expect success without the requisite effort," says an Ontario-wide survey to be released today.

More than 55 per cent of Ontario's faculty and librarians surveyed believe students are less prepared for university than even three years ago. In fact, many post-secondary institutions have had to create catch-up courses to help those who are struggling.

"It wasn't a shock for me — I'm aware of what's happening out there," said Brian Brown, a University of Windsor visual arts professor. He also heads the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, which oversaw the online survey of about 2,000 professors and university librarians out of the province's 15,000.

"What the questionnaire reveals is a serious challenge that we are facing in the system. We are teaching students from what is basically an under-resourced secondary school system."

James Côté, a sociology professor at the University of Western Ontario, says the survey confirms a lot of recent research, and that the decline in student preparedness began years ago but has more recently accelerated.

"It's a wider societal issue, where leisure is very much valued and work habits are not necessarily reinforced in the way that they were in the past. The work ethic is not what it used to be ..... no pain, no gain doesn't seem to be prevalent any more."

Côté co-authored a book, Ivory Tower Blues: A University System in Crisis, that in part chronicled the issues professors have with today's students and maintains a blog where he hears from professors all the time.

With the current focus on stemming high-school dropouts, discipline and punctuality are not longer reinforced, and students come to university expecting to continue that, he added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

College report

- Colleges too report troubles with unprepared students, especially in math.

Nursing allowed in Calgary pools

LAW Calgary city pools will now be designated a "breastfeeding friendly" zone.

Breastfeeding crusader Gemma Kelsall, the mother of a 21-month-old girl, said the end result of speaking out against a recreation centre for not allowing her to feed her daughter in the water has been worth the trouble.

"I am just happy this will be solved for once and for all and that all the pools will support our rights as mothers," she said yesterday, adding she received over 100 personal emails since the saga began last week.

An official said all city pools will now post a "breastfeeding friendly" sign. METRO CANADA

Edmonton **Let the good times roll**

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO CANADA

Oil City Derby Girls captain Hoochie Mama gets sandwiched in between Montreal's New Skids on the Block's Lady J and Lyn-Dah Kicks during yesterday's roller derby bout at the Metro Sportsplex in Edmonton. The fringe sport is gaining an underground following across the country.

Canadian kidnapped in Darfur region

ABDUCTION Two foreign workers, one of whom is a Canadian, for Aide Medicale Internationale were kidnapped at gunpoint in Sudan's Darfur region overnight, the French medical aid group said yesterday.

Sudanese officials said unidentified men seized the two women — one Canadian, the other French — and two Sudanese guards from their compound in Ed el Fursan in South Darfur just before midnight on Saturday night.

The two guards were later released, the officials said.

The second kidnapping of Western humanitarian workers in Darfur in less than a month has raised fears for the safety of foreigners in Sudan's violent west.

Tensions are running particularly high in the war-torn region following the International Criminal Court's issuing of an arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on charges of masterminding war crimes in Darfur.

"Two staff have been taken. Both are women. One is Canadian and one French," Ali Youssef Ahmed, head of protocol at Sudan's Foreign Ministry, said.

The state Sudanese Media Centre reported the kidnappers had asked for a ransom.

The French Foreign Ministry said its crisis centre in Paris had been activated and the French embassy in Khartoum was in touch with the organization and with local authorities. REUTERS

Saskatchewan good site for nuclear reactor: Report

POWER Saskatchewan, home to much of the world's uranium reserves, would be a good place to build Western Canada's first nuclear reactor, according to a report released Friday by a government advisory panel.

The panel told the Saskatchewan government that a 3,000 megawatt nuclear power plant would meet the province's needs and offer export opportunities.

"We know there's strong demand," said Richard Florizone, who chaired the provincially appointed panel.

The Saskatchewan government is planning a series of public meetings before deciding the province's next step in nuclear development.

Saskatchewan is the world's largest producer of natural uranium, accounting for more than one-fifth of global production. That's one of the reasons Western Canada is a great place for a reactor, said Armand Laferrere, a panel member and president of French mining giant Areva Canada.

"Western Canada has a long-term trend of economic growth ... (and) it has a welcoming business atmosphere," he said.

The earliest that construction could begin on a Saskatchewan plant would be five years from now, said Ken Cheveldayoff, the government's minister publicly owned corporations. REUTERS

The builder

- Bruce Power is looking for a site in central Saskatchewan to build a 1,000 megawatt reactor, although it would need government approvals and upgraded energy transmission lines.

German supermarket has brush with toothpaste thief

Police in northern Germany are searching for a man who tried to walk out of a supermarket with 68 tubes of toothpaste stuffed into his clothing. "We don't know if he had bad teeth," a police spokeswoman in Rostock said on Friday. REUTERS

World

Volcano blast intensifies

Chile's Llaima volcano, one of South America's most active, belched ash six kilometres into the sky that was blown towards nearby Argentina, prompting more evacuations. Llaima began spitting lava in a fresh bout of activity Friday night. It erupted fiercely on Jan. 1, 2008, and has expelled rock and ash sporadically since then. REUTERS

Spain **Palm Sunday procession**

MARCELO DEL POZO / REUTERS

Penitents take part in the procession of the La Borriquita brotherhood during Holy Week in Seville, Spain, yesterday. Hundreds of Easter processions take place around the clock in Spain during Holy Week, drawing thousands of visitors.

Obama seeks nuke ban

Cutting U.S. arsenal, ending tests in disarmament planning

U.S. President Barack Obama set out his vision for ridding the world of nuclear arms yesterday, declaring the United States ready to lead steps by all states with atomic weapons to reduce their arsenals.

Delivering a speech given new urgency by North Korea's rocket launch hours earlier, Obama said the United States would go ahead with plans to build a missile defence shield in Europe as long as Iran posed a threat with its nuclear programme.

On a visit to Prague, the Czech capital — once a focal point in the Cold War — Obama pledged to cut the U.S. nuclear arsenal, to bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force and to seek tough penalties for those that broke rules on non-proliferation.

"The United States will take concrete steps towards a world without nuclear weapons," he told a cheering crowd of more than 20,000 in Hradcanske Square outside the medieval Prague Castle.

"To put an end to Cold War thinking, we will reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy and urge others to do the same," Obama said, adding: "We will seek to include all nuclear weapons states in this endeavour."

REUTERS

UN council split by North Korea missile launch

North Korea fired a long-range rocket yesterday, provoking international outrage, but a divided UN Security Council failed at an emergency meeting to agree on a reaction to Pyongyang's defiant move.

The reclusive communist state, which has tested a nuclear device and is in stalled six-party talks on ending its nuclear program, said a satellite was launched and was orbiting the Earth transmitting revolutionary songs.

The United States and South Korea said the Taepodong-2 rocket failed to enter orbit. Analysts said the launch was effectively a test of a ballistic missile designed to carry a warhead as far as Alaska.

Western countries and Japan said the action violated a 2006 Security Council resolution demanding that Pyongyang not launch any more ballistic missiles and that it suspend its missile program.

Diplomats said China and Russia had vowed to use their veto powers to block any resolution imposing new sanctions on Pyongyang, and that both nations are unconvinced the launch violated UN rules.

REUTERS

Russia, China urge caution

- Russia's Foreign Ministry called for "a balanced approach and caution" while discussing North Korea's launch of a long-range rocket yesterday.
- Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yesui told reporters yesterday that any reaction must be "cautious and proportionate."

At least 10 killed in Italy quake

DAMAGE A strong earthquake rocked a large swathe of central Italy last night, killing at least 10 people and causing houses, churches and other buildings to collapse, officials said.

Some media said as many as 13 people had been killed in L'Aquila, a city about 100 kilometres east of Rome.

Four children were reported killed in L'Aquila, two in one outlying village and five in another.

"Thousands of people (could be left) homeless," an official at the civil protection ministry, said.

People were reported to have been trapped under rubble from the quake, which measured 6.3 on the Richter scale. Part of a university residence collapsed in l'Aquila, but it was not clear if anyone was inside.

REUTERS

3,000 troops will turn tide on Taliban: U.S.

KABUL The top U.S. military officer said yesterday extra troops being sent to Afghanistan this year would start to turn the tide against the Taliban-led insurgency.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, was visiting Kabul with U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke a day after NATO agreed to boost troop numbers before Afghanistan's presidential election in August.

NATO leaders agreed at a summit on Saturday to deploy 3,000 more troops to boost security for the Aug. 20 election, the key test of U.S. success in the mission.

The NATO reinforcements will be on top of 17,000 extra U.S. troops due in the country by July and 4,000 American soldiers due to arrive before September to train Afghan forces. They will join about 70,000 international troops in Afghanistan.

REUTERS

Assignment

- Most of the new troops will be sent to the south, which forms the heartland of Taliban support.

Tamil fighters cornered, says Sri Lankan army

COLOMBO Sri Lanka's military said yesterday troops had confined the Tamil Tiger rebels to a no-fire zone, where the last act of the 25-year separatist war will play out with tens of thousands of civilians still trapped.

Three separate units killed at least 420 rebels after surrounding them in a triangle-shaped single square kilometre during a three-day battle, the military said.

That means the remaining rebel-held area is less than 20 square kilometres on the island's northeast coast where the UN has said the Tigers have kept more than 100,000 civilians as human shields.

Troops said they had killed the head security officer for Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) founder and leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran, Gaddhafi; the head of the LTTE's female fighters, Vidusha, and commander Theepan. Evidence suggests Prabhakaran may be within reach.

REUTERS

News in brief

NEW YORK Authorities identified the gunman who killed 13 people and himself at an immigrant services centre Friday as Jiverly Wong, 41, a Vietnamese immigrant who had taken English classes there.

FRANCE French President Nicolas Sarkozy defended yesterday the police handling of violent anti-NATO protests in Strasbourg in which shops were smashed and buildings were set ablaze.

AFGHANISTAN President Hamid Karzai has ordered a review of a new law for Afghanistan's Shiite minority after Western nations raised concerns over its impact on women's rights.

REUTERS

Danish finance minister to become PM
Danish Finance Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen has won the backing of the Liberal Party's coalition allies to become prime minister after Anders Fogh Rasmussen steps down on Sunday to be the new head of NATO. REUTERS

U.S. spying from base: Russian TV

Russian state television accused the United States yesterday of spying on China and Russia after secretly turning its only remaining air base in Central Asia into a state-of-the-art surveillance centre.

A U.S. defence official dismissed the allegations as ridiculous on Friday, when Rossiya television, widely seen as an official mouthpiece in Russia, released a clip of the documentary about the base.

Kyrgyzstan told Washington in February to close the base near the capital Bishkek, used to send supplies to U.S. troops in Afghanistan, after it secured a $2 billion US aid package from Russia. The Americans are due to leave in August.

In the documentary, called Base, Rossiya showed a compound of two-storey windowless buildings, and said: "In one of the buildings ... there is a multi-channel, multi-functional system of radio-electronic surveillance. This station can eavesdrop the whole world — every fax, every emailed letter. Every call from a mobile or landline phone is being recorded and processed. Billions of messages are being intercepted."

Airing the film days after Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's first meeting with U.S .President Barack Obama is likely to raise talk of tensions within Russia's elite. REUTERS

U.S. ready to lead on climate, Obama tells EU

PRAGUE The United States is ready to take a leading role in tackling climate change, President Barack Obama said yesterday, receiving a cautious welcome from European Union hosts at talks in the Czech capital, Prague.

Obama made the commitment at an EU-U.S. summit intended to mend transatlantic ties stretched by the Bush administration and Iraq war. His European hosts were mostly interested in whether Washington would back European efforts to replace the Kyoto protocol with tough pledges to cut greenhouses gases. REUTERS

News in brief

NIGERIA The U.S. embassy in Nigeria warned yesterday of a possible attack against diplomatic missions in Lagos, the commercial capital of Africa's biggest oil producer. The embassy said it had received reports of a possible strike against missions located close to the U.S. consulate. REUTERS

Space tourist shares his view of the globe

ANDRÁS KISS
Metro World News

BUDAPEST When nine Hungarian high school students made radio contact with space tourist Charles Simonyi at the International Space Station yesterday, he was happy to take their questions.

Simonyi, a Hungarian-born billionaire software executive, is the only space tourist who has taken the journey twice. He told the students that being in space does not allow him enough time for reading, and that the most uncomfortable thing at the space station is the lack of opportunities to wash.

According to Simonyi our planet is nowhere near as colorful from the window of the station as it is on pictures.

The most interesting thing for him — apart from the lack of gravity — is the sense of speed. "A few minutes ago I was passing over New York," said Simonyi, who had said he was flying over Ireland at the beginning of their chat.

Simonyi is scheduled to return to Earth tomorrow.

Prague **Protest over missile shield**

DAVID W CERNY/REUTERS

Demonstrators shout slogans during a protest rally in Prague yesterday against a plan to build a U.S. missile defence shield in the Czech Republic.

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PEOPLE POWERED

Green option for spring cleaning

With spring here, it's time to clean your winter-soiled windows. Try doing the chore in a greener way with a cup of white vinegar, a cup of water and, as an option, a half teaspoon of dish soap. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Green

Rona's eco-friendly line

Rona has introduced 40 new products to its Rona Eco line. These products are more eco-friendly than similar conventional products over their entire life cycle. The new Rona Eco items include — among others — a manual lawn mower, an algae-based fertilizer, a rainwater collector, reconditioned tool blades, and mouldings. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Your new green home

Well-planned house costs less and value may increase

If you have plans to build a new house soon, this is the time to start things off right.

An environmentally thoughtful, high-performance home is one that incorporates a green combination of technology, construction, design and maintenance elements — all of which will provide a healthier indoor life for its residents, and will significantly lower its impact on the planet's environment.

Indeed, a well-planned green home costs less to operate immediately and its value increases steadily over time. A green home is constructed with concrete, not wood, has energy-efficient lighting, heating, cooling and water-heating systems.

Here's a handy checklist as you begin:

The site: Build where you can beautify or replace unsightly properties like a factory, a parking lot, rail yard or shopping mall. Don't build on environmentally sensitive sites like wetlands, forests or farmland.

Location: Build with walking or cycling in mind, near public transportation, schools and shops.

Materials: Start with concrete. An award-winning system by the all-Canadian company Nudura builds walls with pre-assembled, Lego-like blocks of concrete. This cuts construction time significantly, creates less waste material, and virtually eliminates mould, mildew and other emissions produced by buildings structured with wood. Homeowners save money with durability and energy efficiency — and the resulting structure (www.nudura.com) is reported to be up to nine times stronger, with far more fire protection, far more sound insulation, and with a potential to reduce energy costs of up to 70 per cent. Other green materials should include low- and zero-VOC (volatile organic compound) paints and sealants. Any wood-based features should come from rapidly renewable sources, like bamboo. The best green homes use salvaged materials like kitchen tiles with significant recycled content. Ask for a roof that is light-coloured and heat-reflecting.

Design: Think about the site's natural attributes and shape your new home accordingly. Reduce lighting and energy requirements by taking advantage of natural breezes and daylight, perhaps with skylights or with larger windows on certain walls. Aim for natural daylight to reach at least 75 per cent of the home's interior. Outside, design your landscape with lots of large canopy trees and flowering plants to attract the reproduction activity of birds and bees.

Windows and doors: Dual-glaze windows reduce heat gain in summer and heat loss during the winter. The best quality is government rated.

Renewable energy: Ask for the latest technology to generate some of your own household energy.

Water efficiency: Design with a water-conserving irrigation system. Collect and store rainwater. Add the latest in water-efficient fixtures.

NEWS CANADA

Demand expected to double

- Canadians continue to ask for high-performance, sustainable components in their newly built homes. Within the next three years, builders are predicting demand for green components will double. This represents a 12 to 20 per cent market share, and an industry worth $40 billion to $70 billion. Concrete walls, for example, are replacing the old wood frame method with countless benefits.

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I'M THINKING

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Say YES to Blu-Ray

OWN IT APRIL 7!

Insulating hot water pipes can cut down on greenhouse gases
Buy foam sleeve insulation for your hot water pipes and wrap it around the first nine feet of your water heater. It will cost only a few dollars and save about 13 kilograms of greenhouse gases per year, according to Godo Styoke's The Carbon Buster's Home Energy Handbook. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Eco-friendly home can pay dividends

Sustainable is the word to remember when choosing materials to build your new home. High-performance, sustainable components deliver a return on investment that compounds year after year — a welcome reprieve when the world's finances are in such turmoil. Simply ask your builder to aim for green.

The building industry is, in fact, a leader in sustainable technology. Take a look at Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), an organization that encourages and accelerates global adoption of green building and development practices. LEED has set up a third-party certification program providing an international benchmark for the construction and operation of high-performance, sustainable buildings.

"A green home uses less energy and natural resources," says Todd Blyth at Nudura, the manufacturer of insulated concrete forms.

"It creates less waste and is healthier and more comfortable for the occupants. Equally important benefits include lower energy bills, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and less exposure to mould, mildew and other indoor toxins. As a result, the net cost of owning a sustainable home is comparable to the cost of a conventional one."

NEWS CANADA

Makeovers made more affordable

Now more than ever, there are global events, local campaigns and federal government incentives to help Canadians reduce their impact on our planet.

Finally, consumers are starting to see options to mobilize change in their own lives that are affordable and attainable. Of course, government rebates sweeten the deal even more. Now is the time for homeowners to invest in green home makeovers.

Start off small with simple projects. A good place to start is to evaluate your home's efficiency. When it comes to residential water conservation, auditing one of the most wasteful areas in the home is the first step to improvement: The bathroom.

To see the fastest impact in cost savings and water conservation, start with the toilet.

Dual flush toilets, which provide liquid and solid waste disposal options, use either 3.8 or 4.3 litres per flush, depending on the flushing option you choose. Switching to dual flush can save an average household of four people anywhere between seven and nearly 19,000 litres of water in a year. Depending on what you pay for water and how often you use the light flushing option, the cash savings can be substantial.

Kohler's Persuade and San Raphael models are just a few of the dual flush options to choose from. Starting as low as $460, your rebate and long-term water savings will pay for the upgrade in no time.

A simple and relatively inexpensive toilet upgrade is a great way to begin your green home makeover. Most rebate programs are available for a limited amount of time, so if you're considering an upgrade now is the time to research your options and invest in the right places.

NEWS CANADA

Down the drain

- The average Canadian flushes the toilet five times daily. In homes with an industry standard 6.1 litres per flush toilet, that works out to more than 30 litres of water per day, per person. That's more than one billion litres across the country every day. In older homes, toilets are likely to use between 13 and 20 litres per flush.

Reduce your carbon footprint, energy bills

With spring in full bloom, it's a great time to consider ways to green your home and reduce your carbon footprint.

Having a green conscience is much more practical and inexpensive than you may think. For example, by sealing cracks around your windows, you can do your part to save money on your electricity bill and minimize your impact on the environment.

Here are a few tips that can help green your home:

Audit yourself: By hiring an inspector to perform a simple home energy audit, you will be able to find where energy is lost and where it can be saved.

Reduce your use: On average, lighting a house consumes 3,942 kWh, which is equivalent to 27 light bulbs. By switching to compact fluorescent bulbs, you can save up to $300 on your lighting bill. (Natural Resources Canada, ENERGY STAR Simple Savings, 2008)

Buy green: After cooling and heating, appliances are the most energy consuming users in the home. When you buy appliances, make sure you look for the EnergyGuide label.

NEWS CANADA

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Say YES to Blu-Ray

OWN IT APRIL 7!

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Comment & Views

Comment

Reflection on life and car

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

My partner, Liz, and I are about to enter into one of the riskiest, most unnerving ventures any adult can face. Not marriage, that was a piece of cake. What we plan to do is "… I'm hesitant to share this, because I know some readers will have very strong reactions and I'll get a raft of emails asking, "Are you insane?" Again. Well, call me crazy, but we're going to … buy a used car.

I know, I know. Buying a used car is like hitting on a complete stranger. You don't know what you might be picking up.

But after weighing the options, Liz and I decided buying a used car is the way to go. We just can't manage the alternative. Which would be "walking."

We're buying a pre-owned Smart car. Liz and I can both take public transit to work, so we figure we really only need half a car.

A Smart car seems like the answer.

Our friends have concerns about Smart cars. "What if you're barrelling down the highway and get hit head on by an 18-wheeler?" My answer, "At that point, I don't think what car I'm driving will be an issue."

Another complained, "With a car like that you're totally trading practicality for trendiness." This from a woman wearing suede boots.

Someone else warned, "You won't be able to drive a whole pack of kids around." Darn.

As with most large purchases, I'm convinced the key to buying a used car is research. Try to do as little as possible. Just as reading the Internet always convinces me the tickle in my throat is anything from Cholera to a resurgence of the Black Death, reading research on used cars left me feeling I have a better chance of surviving complete disaster by going tap dancing in a mine field. The used car sites say things like, "If you take time to have the vehicle thoroughly checked, top to bottom, by a licensed mechanic, you'll have nothing to worry about. Except, of course, for the problems that can't be detected."

In the end, I'd say buying a used car is like any other risk. There are perils. Possibly hidden surprises. Definitely no guarantees. But there's a term for this kind of situation. Life.

So, Liz and I will buy a used car. And take our shiny new hopes out for a spin.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

One Antarctic ice shelf has disappeared, scientists say

ENVIRONMENT One Antarctic ice shelf has quickly vanished, another is disappearing and glaciers are melting faster than anyone thought due to climate change, U.S. and British government researchers reported Friday.

They said the Wordie Ice Shelf, which had been disintegrating since the 1960s, is gone and the northern part of the Larsen Ice Shelf no longer exists. More than 8,300 square kilometres have broken off from the Larsen shelf since 1986. Climate change is to blame, according to the report from the U.S. Geological Survey and the British Antarctic Survey.

"The rapid retreat of glaciers there demonstrates once again the profound effects our planet is already experiencing — more rapidly than previously known — as a consequence of climate change," U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said.

"This continued and often significant glacier retreat is a wakeup call that change is happening … and we need to be prepared," USGS glaciologist Jane Ferrigno, who led the Antarctica study.

"Antarctica is of special interest because it holds an estimated 91 per cent of the Earth's glacier volume, and change anywhere in the ice sheet poses significant hazards to society," she said.

In another report published in the journal Geophysical Letters, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports ice is melting more rapidly than expected in the Arctic as well, based on new computer analyses and recent ice measurements.

REUTERS

Views

Time for smokers with kids to butt out

InTransit

Derek Moscato

metronews.ca/moscato

After midnight tonight, British Columbians who smoke in their vehicles with children present will face more than just social disapproval. They will become outlaws.

That's because, to mark World Health Day tomorrow, our provincial government is putting new anti-smoking legislation into effect, which takes direct aim at this behaviour.

All I can say is, it's about time.

As a lifelong asthmatic — and someone who endured more than a few nauseating car rides with chain-smoking adults during my youth — I have little patience for cigarette enthusiasts who force second-hand smoke on the rest of us.

So I give full marks to our politicians for trying to clear the air for kids who wouldn't have a say otherwise.

But will this well-meaning initiative really work?

It's true that drivers who light up with Junior on board can be pulled over by the police and be hit with a $109 fine.

Unfortunately, other regulations focused on second-hand smoke haven't had much of a deterring effect to date.

Last year, as part of a major anti-tobacco push, the B.C. government banned smoking within three metres of doorways, windows, or air intakes — as well as at transit shelters.

Health officials noted at the time that complaints from the public would help enforce the rules.

And yet, if you're planning on enjoying a coffee in the sunshine this week at one of the Lower Mainland's many café patios, there's a good chance you'll still be stepping on cigarette butts or sucking in tobacco fumes — proximity to doorways be damned.

It's the same story at bus shelters, where puffers still rule.

Even the side entranceway to my condominium is a hangout for the smoking employees of a nearby nail salon, who don't hesitate to light up there —and leave their disgusting cigarette butts scattered behind.

So what's going to be different about tomorrow's law?

Well, police enforcement and a nasty fine, for starters.

With the health of children at stake, our government leaders are bound to take this more seriously.

That's not to say smokers should be blackballed.

Many longtime tobacco addicts are dealing with tough health outcomes, and they deserve our support and sympathy. Besides, not all of them flaunt the law.

But for those who willingly put others in harm's way, it's time for real enforcement, and less of the tiring lip service that props up the smoky status quo.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

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Vancouver Community College

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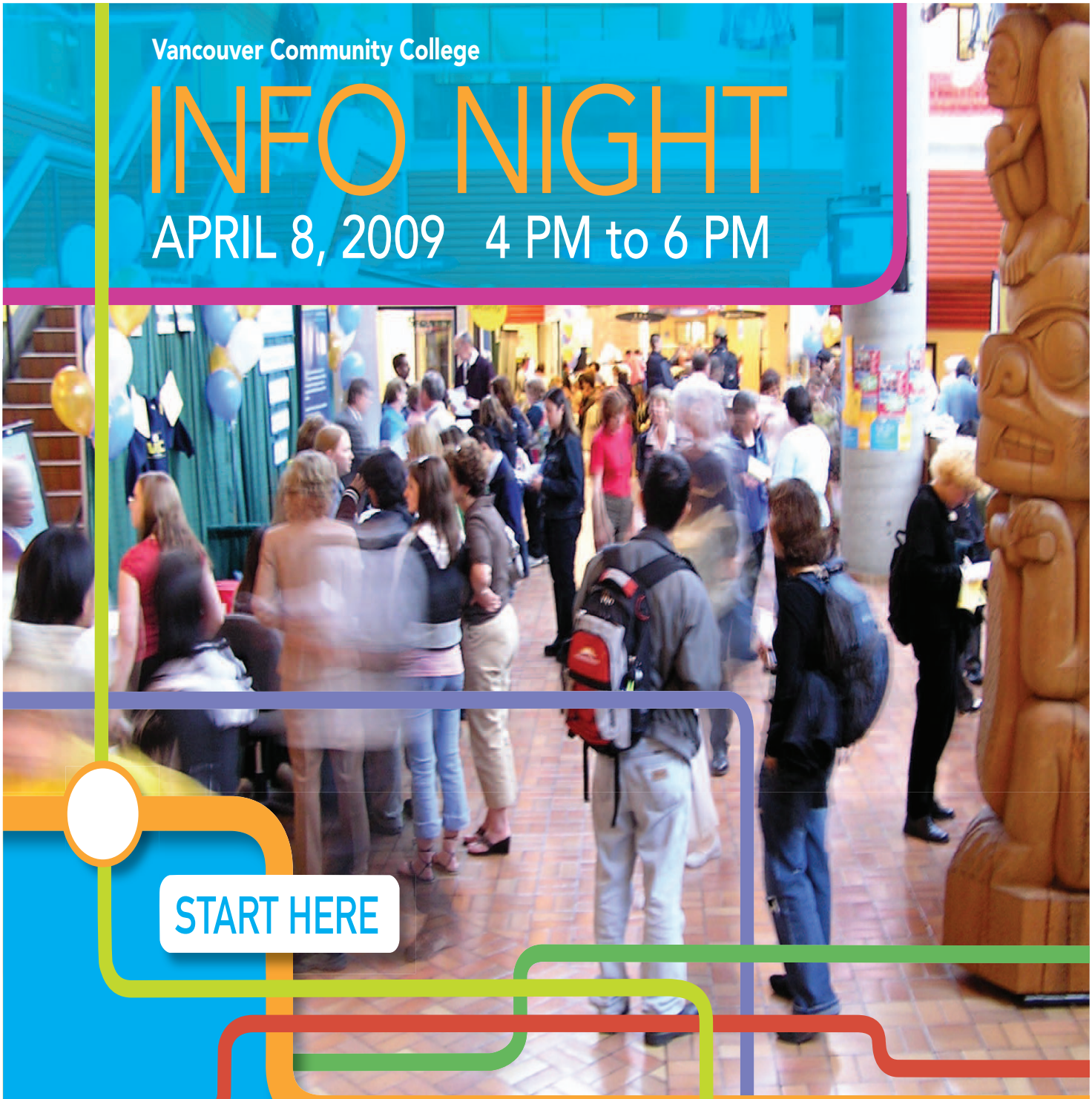
APRIL 8, 2009 4 PM to 6 PM



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It can serve more than 1,000 full-time students in programs including: nursing, home support/ resident care, medical laboratory technician, medical office assistant, pharmacy technician, nursing unit clerk, occupational/physical therapist assistant and others.

D0246 - April 6 + 8.2009 — Wall sculpture *Double Blind*, 2008 by Antonia Hirsch.

EASY ACCESS

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OPPORTUNITIES

Kumba Moseray ▶
Sierra Leone refugee, Moseray, won a scholarship to VCC's automotive collision repair program last fall and is now starting an exciting career as an automotive painter.

FUTURE

Rochelle Garrison ▶
This VCC graphic design student, entered a contest to get a free Applied Arts magazine and won a national award instead. Garrison, now a grad, is a graphic designer at an engineering firm.

Vancouver Community College

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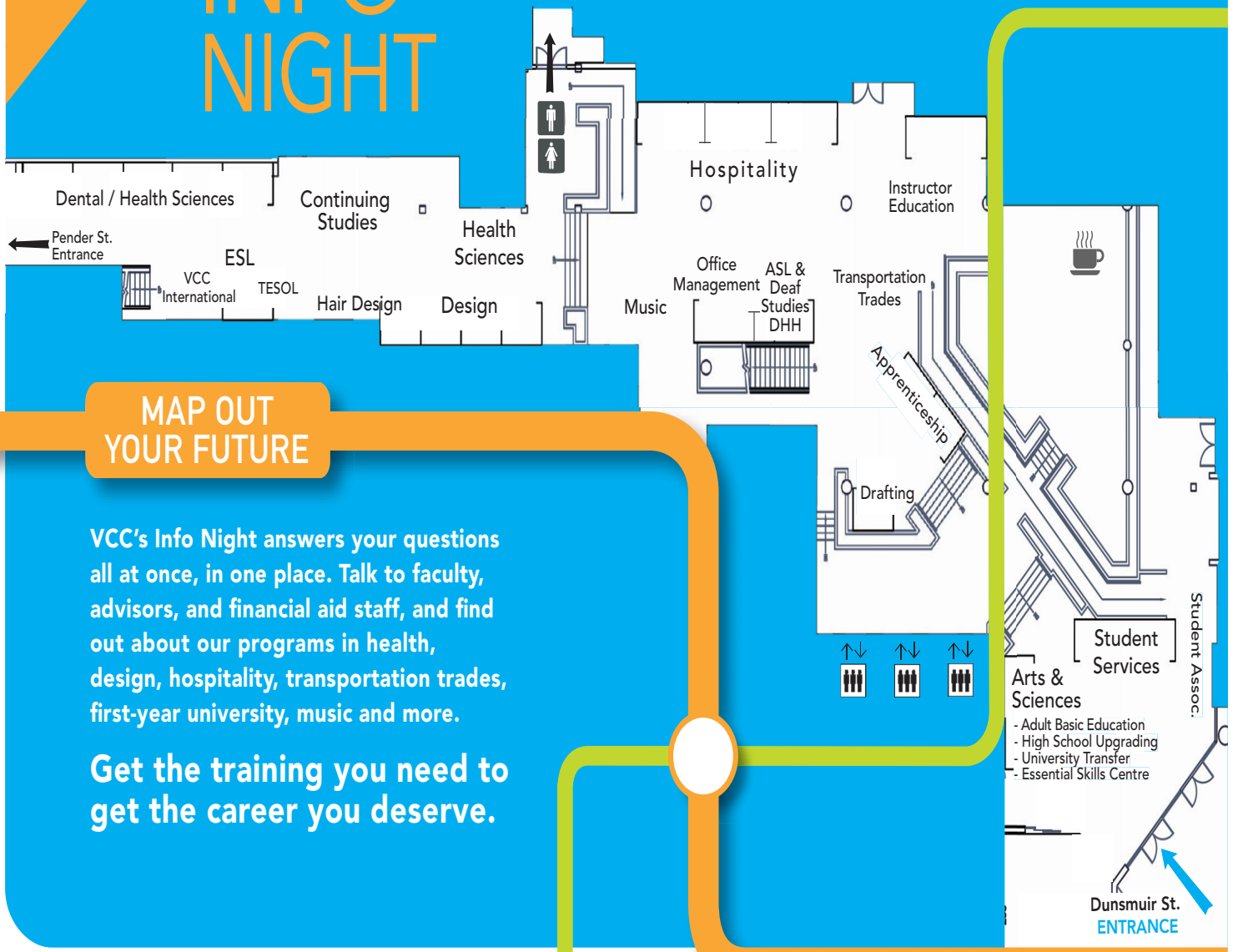
VCC downtown campus (Dunsmuir at Hamilton)



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A CUT ABOVE

Steve Jui ▶

Recent VCC hair design graduate, lives with the notion that serving others is the key to success – it underlies both his new salon, Juju, on the edge of Yaletown and his success as a student leader while at VCC.

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U.S. seeks info on Ticketmaster, reseller
Ticketmaster has been subpoenaed or received other requests for information about its relationship with its reseller TicketsNow from the U.S. Justice Department, the Federal Trade Commission and the New Jersey Attorney General's office, the company said in an email obtained by an industry blog. REUTERS

Business

Canwest faces another deadline

Canwest Global Communications Corp. is heading toward another deadline tomorrow to restructure a debt agreement with its bankers, but time could be running out for the broadcaster and newspaper publisher as it tries to solve its financial woes, having already been given an extension by lenders. CBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Air Canada CEO has work cut out for him

Newly appointed chief faces high costs as customer demand for travel keeps falling

Air Canada's new CEO, lawyer-come-investment banker Calin Rovinescu, is expected to focus on slashing costs in the midst of the current recession, but his task won't be easy.

While he played a key role during Air Canada's reorganization under bankruptcy protection in 2003 and 2004, he is taking the controls at a time when demand for air travel is falling and Air Canada's cash obligations are on the rise because of debt repayments, bad bets on fuel hedges and significantly heightened pension obligations.

Air Canada posted a loss of more than $1 billion last year.

"Calin coming in is the board saying we need dramatic change because we're losing way too much money," said Karl Moore, a business professor at McGill University.

"Calin (Rovinescu) coming in is the board saying we need dramatic change because we're losing way too much money."
Prof. Karl Moore, McGill University

But the challenge this time around is that there are few obvious places to make deep cuts. As well, most of the airline's side businesses, including Aeroplan and regional carrier Jazz, have already been spun off.

A key issue to be addressed is the airline's ballooning pension obligations, which would require changes to federal funding rules. Air Canada now estimates deficits in its various employee pension plans totalling $3.2 billion. Ben Cherniavsky, an analyst at Raymond James, estimated in a recent report that Air Canada will need approximately $475 million over the next year just to fund the deficit.

Another federal policy change that could bolster Air Canada's prospects would be raising the limit on foreign investments in Canadian airlines to 49 per cent from 25 per cent currently — something Transport Minister John Baird has committed to achieving alongside a new "Open Skies" pact signed with the European Union.

That could open the door to a strategic investment from the likes of Germany's Lufthansa AG.

On the operations side, some analysts are expecting an overhaul of Air Canada's network to remove unprofitable flying and increase the focus on the most lucrative domestic and international routes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

India **Sports car showcase**

ARKO DATTA/REUTERS

People watch sports cars at a Super Car Show in Mumbai, India, yesterday. More than 40 luxury and sports cars were showcased in the one-day show and entourage.

Consumer staples past their prime?

INVESTING Canadian consumer staple stocks have been a good bet in bad times, with the steady profits of grocers and drugstores offering comfort to investors, but savvy shareholders may soon start turning to more cyclical plays.

Beaten-up retailers, particularly in the home improvement sector, are tipped to outperform as the economy begins to recover from the financial crisis.

The key, analysts said, is keeping a close eye on forward-looking economic indicators, especially those tied to employment and confidence, that will herald a revival of consumer discretionary plays.

Brian Yarbrough, retail analyst at Edward Jones, said "less worse news" on the economy would be good news for consumer discretionary heavyweights like Rona Inc. and Canadian Tire Corp., which he said would benefit "first and the most" from a recovery. REUTERS

New York bankers best paid: Poll

SURVEY London bankers' mighty pay has fallen from the highest level among global financial centres to the lowest, with Wall Street financiers grabbing the top spot, a poll showed yesterday. REUTERS

Estimated cost for U.S. bailout rises

TAXPAYERS U.S. congressional budget analysts have raised their estimate of the net cost to taxpayers for the government's financial rescue program to $356 billion US, an increase of $167 billion from earlier estimates.

The Congressional Budget Office had originally projected the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program would cost taxpayers $189 billion.

The cost was raised due to changes in market conditions, new transactions and a shift in expected timing of payments. REUTERS

Business in brief

BAN Switzerland's UBS has issued a worldwide travel ban for wealth-management client advisers, a spokeswoman said.

MEDIA The New York Times Co. has threatened to shut the Boston Globe unless the newspaper's unions quickly agree to $20 million US in concessions, the Globe reported Friday, quoting union leaders.

OFFER IBM and Sun Microsystems Inc. broke off acquisition talks after Sun indicated it was unhappy with IBM's offer of $9.40 US or below per share, a source said yesterday. REUTERS

Rich Dad's Solution to the Economic Crisis on Wall Street

PROTECT Yourself & Even PROFIT In Today's Volatile Market

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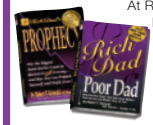

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Robert Kiyosaki will not attend this workshop.

Say YES to Blu-Ray

OWN IT APRIL 7!

Primeau to donate brain for research

Former NHL all-star Keith Primeau announced he is joining more than 100 former professional, college and high school athletes by committing to donate his brain upon death to the Boston University School of Medicine, in an effort to help solve the sports concussion crisis. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Patrick upset after crash

Danica Patrick's IndyCar season got off to a tough start after she crashed out early in the season-opening Honda Grand Prix yesterday in Florida. She was running ninth in the 22-car field yesterday when Raphael Matos tried to pass as the two went into a tight turn on the temporary street course. As the uninjured drivers walked away, Patrick patted Matos on the helmet as if to say, 'Use your head.' METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Canucks beaten by Avs

NHL RESULT

Avalanche 4 Canucks 1

VS

SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

THE SKINNY: T.J. Galiardi scored a pair of goals as the worst team in the Western Conference beat the Canucks in their own barn. Milan Hejduk had a goal and two assists for the Avalanche, who snapped an eight-game losing streak with the win.

THE REPLACEMENTS: This wasn't the powerhouse Avalanche squad that most hockey fans remember; this rookie-laden group boasted ten players that have made their NHL debuts this season as a result of injuries to the likes of Joe Sakic, Ryan Smyth, Paul Stastny and Adam Foote.

THE HEAD-SCRATCHER: A night after peppering Dwayne Roloson with 46 shots, Vancouver managed just 21 shots on Peter Budaj. The Avalanche have allowed the third-most goals in the NHL.

THE STATEMENT: Want to know what head coach Alain Vigneault thought of his team's effort? Vigneault sent Shane O'Brien for a big chunk of a late power play; O'Brien has yet to score a goal in 74 games this season.

THE WASTE: Vancouver missed two opportunities to pass Calgary atop the division thanks to back-to-back losses to Edmonton and Colorado.

THE RATING: Lack of jump, lack of fire and a lack of entertainment from the Canucks. 1.5 out of five stars.

THE NEXT GAME: The Canucks host the Flames tomorrow in a game that could very well decide the Northwest Division and third place in the Western Conference.

RICHARD LAM/REUTERS

Colorado Avalanche forward Darcy Tucker collides with Vancouver Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo during the second period in Vancouver yesterday. The Avalanche won 4-1.

Home-ice advantage clearly a top priority

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul

metronews.ca/toulbox

Teams without it argue "it's no big deal," while those who possess it speak about its importance.

If last night is any indication, home-ice advantage is very significant to the Canucks as Alain Vigneault elected to start Roberto Luongo despite the fact his captain had played Saturday night in Edmonton.

Luongo was coming off a pair of subpar outings and with the basement-dwelling Avalanche in town, last night presented an excellent opportunity to get Vancouver's No. 1 netminder a rest prior to the playoffs.

Now it appears as though Luongo's only chance for respite will come in the season finale at Colorado should the Canucks' position in the standings not rely on the outcome of that game.

He is certain to start versus Calgary tomorrow and Los Angeles on Thursday as Vancouver attempts to wrestle the Northwest title away from the Flames.

Should the Canucks win both of those games and get the proper help from Calgary's other opponents this week, Jason Labarbera would most likely get the call against the Avs on Saturday.

That could also happen should the Canucks lose both contests and find themselves unable to catch either Chicago or Calgary five days from now.

If neither scenario materializes, Luongo will have played 35 of Vancouver's final 37 games leading into the post-season.

That's not a criticism, just a fact, and it illustrates how much the Canucks really covet the third seed in the conference.

Scott Rintoul can be heard Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m.
scott.rintoul@team1040.ca.

Detroit revels in Spartans' success

NCAA Detroit put aside its dread over a crippled auto industry on Saturday, savouring a day in the sun and the U.S. spotlight as the NCAA basketball tournament delivered a moment of relief for the Motor City. Michigan State upset top-ranked Connecticut 82-73, setting the stage for a showdown with North Carolina tonight for the U.S. college championship.

REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago 1 Columbus 0 (OT)
Florida 4 Pittsburgh 2
Detroit 3 Minnesota 2
San Jose 3 Anaheim 2
Washington 6 Atlanta 4
Colorado 4 VANCOUVER 1

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Los Angeles at Calgary
Ottawa at Montreal
Detroit at Buffalo

Blackhawks defeat Blue Jackets

NHL RESULT

Chicago 1 Columbus 0

Kris Versteeg scored the game's lone goal on a breakaway with 1:50 remaining in overtime as the Chicago Blackhawks blanked the Columbus Blue Jackets 1-0 in a defensive showdown at Nationwide Arena.

In the extra session, Columbus captain Rick Nash carried the puck into the Chicago zone, but Andrew Ladd broke up the play and feathered a pass to Versteeg, who skated in alone on Steve Mason and beat the rookie netminder on the stick side.

"What a hockey game. Both teams played hard, the pace was incredible," said Chicago head coach Joel Quenneville. "I don't know how many times we had five or six minutes of play without faceoffs or stoppages. The pace just never stopped. I would like to commend them for playing well. Both goalies were great. What a thrill. It was a fun game to watch and be a part of."

Nikolai Khabibulin was a brick wall for the Blackhawks, stopping all 20 shots he faced to notch his second shutout of the season and 40th of his career.

Chicago has won six of its last eight games and is fourth in the Western Conference with 97 points.

Mason finished with 24 saves for the Blue Jackets, who have lost five of seven. METRO NEWS SERVICES

MATT SULLIVAN/REUTERS

Chicago Blackhawk Kris Versteeg, second from left, celebrates with teammates after scoring against the Columbus Blue Jackets in overtime for a 1-0 win in Columbus, Ohio, yesterday.

MLB Play ball

TIM SHAFFER/REUTERS

The defending world champion Phillies are greeted by fans on the field prior to Major League Baseball's season opener between Philadelphia and the Atlanta Braves last night. The Braves ruined the festivities, however, winning 4-1.

Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be setting its sights on all the jobs that involve our furry friends.
So be sure to read Workology and metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series every Monday and Wednesday.

Workology

Just a Buck, Change Their Luck

PetSmart Charities of Canada is kicking off its spring campaign, Just a Buck, Change Their Luck, to help help homeless pets by fundraising for local animal welfare agencies. From May 6-26, 100 per cent of the sales of assorted items featuring the design to the left — by Toronto-based Ron Berg — will go to PetSmart Charities. See Petsmartcharities.ca for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Eye for the blind, heart of gold

Paws and **Claws**

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

When human eyes can't see, it's up to man's best friend to lead the way.

A gorgeous and furry Bernese mountain dog, Maestro is a trained guide dog who bears a heavier burden than most regular dogs — he's responsible for the day-to-day safety of his owner.

Public servant Lawrence Euteneier, 45, is Maestro's blind owner and says Maestro isn't just a guide dog, he's a shoulder to lean on and by all definitions a true best friend.

"He's a great dog and an even better friend. When I get nervous he has to be calm for me. He counters my nervous energy with his strength," Euteneier said.

Among his many talents, Maestro can find a hotel room by sense of smell alone after he's visited it once and can pick up emotional signals too subtle for most humans to notice.

"He knows I'm feeling a certain way before I know I feel that way. I'll know I'm stressed out by his reaction to me," Euteneier said.

"He's a great dog and an even better friend. When I get nervous he has to be calm for me. He counters my nervous energy with his strength."
Lawrence Euteneier on Maestro (pictured)

Dogs like Maestro have enabled Euteneier to live a life as full of excitement and adventure as any regularly sighted person, including numerous travels around the world and a career in public service spent breaking down barriers for people with disabilities.

Maestro makes Euteneier's active life possible by letting him walk the streets and navigate indoor spaces easily and safely.

It's all in the training and the harness, which Maestro uses to signal when Euteneier should stop, step back or go forward. If needed, he'll use his own body weight to push Euteneier out of the way of impending hazards like moving cars or cyclists. He'll also stretch his neck out to signal when Euteneier needs to grab something like a door handle or a handrail.

Maestro has to judge situations and react to them even more quickly than a human being does so that he can signal Euteneier in time. It's a huge responsibility for anyone, especially a dog, to bear and this is what makes Maestro so special.

The MIRA Foundation, located near Montreal, trains dogs like Maestro free of charge for disabled individuals who need them. The organization's founder and CEO Eric St-Pierre says training Maestro took about 20 months and the bubbly Bernese was one of only 67 dogs in his year out of 300 puppies that had the skill and personality to become a guide dog for the blind. Training is challenging and time-consuming and in the end, only dogs as smart, friendly and perceptive as Maestro can make the cut.

For Euteneier, Maestro is much more than just another pet.

"I take care of him and he takes care of me," he said.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Guide dog Maestro helps his owner and best friend Lawrence Euteneier, a public service worker, down a flight of stairs.

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:
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Attention job seekers
Rogers Wireless and Workopolis have announced an agreement in which Rogers Wireless and Fido customers can browse Workopolis job postings for free from their wireless device's WAP deck until May 31. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Comedic career swing

Odd**Jobs**

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

Martin Baker a is joke writer with about 3,000 jokes in his cache.

It was a cartoon in a transit paper — not this one — years ago. A mummy was talking to the ticket-taker at the Toronto subway's Museum station, the one near the Royal Ontario Museum.

"One senior, please," the caption said.

That's one of Martin Baker's one-liners. He's been mostly making a living off this humour, which leans towards puns, for the last 20 years.

As a child, he loved making jokes and playing with words. It didn't seem relevant for a career. He eventually found work in libraries. But two decades ago Baker thought it was time to figure out what he really wanted to do. He picked up the book Wishcraft by Barbara Sher. It helped him better analyze what he was really passionate about.

And that was humour.

Baker started writing jokes in his spare time, and started selling his work. He read some books on comedy, did stand-up and had a successful Theatresports team, Stairway to 7-Eleven.

He was able to eventually quit his library job, but has taken up work on and off over the years to supplement the writing.

Mostly, Baker, now 48, helps out syndicated cartoonists when they're overly busy or need ideas. He gets connected through the syndicate service, by digging up their email addresses or through contacts. He once wrote for a cartoon five days a week. Now, the work varies from once a week to occasionally.

Contributing mainly to one-panel cartoons, not those with regular characters, he morphs his style to suit the comic. "If you're adaptable, it's easier to get hired."

He's also written slogans for corporate and non-profit clients (one environmental group: "Things are looking up for solar power"), and has written clever lines for newspaper and magazines too.

On the average day, Baker spends the morning emailing and calling potential writing contacts and updating his blog. A few afternoons a week he goes out and volunteers.

In the evening, he pulls out a notebook, dictionary and thesaurus and writes. He likes to play off everyday phrases and clichés. He has about 3,000 jokes and ideas in his collection of notebooks.

He's always trying to find new clients to write for (he'd love to break into greeting cards, but that's tough). And he'd love to find a system for transferring all his material onto computer so it's easier to find.

As for actually drawing some of those cartoons he helps out with? No way, he's a writer.

"If I could draw I'd probably be a millionaire by now."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Joke writer
Salary: Sometimes enough to get by.
Education/training: Doing stand up and reading books on comedy: "I learned through the school of hard yuks."
Best Part of the Job: "Expressing a part of who I am. Humour is essential to my well-being and to my sense of having fun."
Worst Part of the Job: "The isolation. That's why I get out and do volunteer work."

Trade tumbling in economic crisis

ECONOMY If recent signs of life in the global economy are for real, we should soon start to see some stabilization in world trade too.

The collapse in trade since Lehman Brothers imploded last September has shocked even veteran economists, and alarmed world leaders so much that they committed $250 billion to support trade financing at last week's Group of 20 summit.

"I am terrified by the numbers I have seen so far on trade," said Uri Dadush, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and former director of international trade for the World Bank. "I am truly taken aback by the speed and the breadth of this decline."

"I am terrified by the numbers."
Economist Uri Dadush

At the Port of Long Beach in California, where a large portion of U.S. imports from Asia land, the number of containers arriving in February dropped 43 per cent from a year earlier. Exports, which kept rising last year long after imports faded, fell 37 per cent.

That would suggest this week's trade reports may be grim reading. The United States, Germany, China and Britain are all scheduled to release monthly figures, and economists polled by Reuters expect the data to confirm that exports are hurting all over the world.

Trade is typically one of the later economic indicators to rebound, which is why these reports are likely to stay ugly even when some other readings are suggesting the severity of the global economy's downturn may be starting to ease.

The plight of global trade, which the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said was in "free fall," clearly illustrates how the global upheaval has claimed casualties well beyond the financial sector.

Countries whose banks never touched the sort of souring assets that dragged down the rich world nevertheless have suffered steep declines in exports, which in turn is curbing domestic production and demand.

Over the last five months alone, the world economy has lost 15 percent of its industrial production, said Hans Timmer, a World Bank economist.

"That is really unheard of that it happened so suddenly," he said. "It happened in every country. It happened in the high-income countries and it happened in the developing countries."

The New Normal

Outside of trade, there have been some indications that the worst of the global recession may be over, and that has spurred stock markets worldwide.

Recent surveys of factory activity in the United States, Europe and China have recovered from record lows, and U.S. consumers have resumed buying more than just the basics.

China in particular has shown promising signs that a $585 billion government spending program is reviving growth. China's manufacturing sector expanded in March for the first time since September. New export orders still showed contraction but improved from the previous month. REUTERS

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Kwantlen breaks ground for Aboriginal Gathering Place
Kwantlen Polytechnic University recently held a sod-turning event to celebrate the groundbreaking of the school's Aboriginal Gathering Place, whose purpose is to encourage Aboriginal students to enrol at Kwantlen. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tune out stress with music

For optometrist Howard Levy, nothing eases the tension of daily eye exams and mounting paperwork like strapping on a guitar and jamming with fellow eye-care professionals in a rock band dubbed OffAxis.

Levy, 56, who lives and works in California, said the recession has only escalated the headaches of his job — last-minute patient cancellations, bounced checks and insurance aggravation.

"But the music is totally a stress buster," he said. "It's the passion of our souls to play music, create music, bond with all these people and take our mind off our daily routines."

He is among a growing number of individuals in the work force, many stressed out by tough economic times, who are indulging their inner musician by dusting off old guitars, drums and other instruments to pursue after-hours lessons and garage-band gigs.

As more people are laid off, companies that specialize in given music lessons are starting to see an increase in their business.

Steven Cox, CEO of TakeLessons.com, a music-instruction business with a network of private music teachers in 400 cities nationwide, said 2008 was a banner year in revenue, numbers of students and lessons booked.

Business continued to climb in January and February, marking the five-year-old company's two best months to date, all despite a slumping economy.

Or, perhaps, because of it.

"I think the economy has something to do with that," Cox said of the trend, adding that the downturn has coincided with a higher proportion of adults, many of them white-collar professionals, showing up among his clientele.

Noteworthy Trend

Cox cited the case of a 54-year-old investment banker in New York who recently signed up for lessons on the clarinet, an instrument she studied as a child.

"And she said, 'You know what? I work a lot. I have a very few number of free hours, and I just want to do something that's stimulating my brain while I can relax,'" he said.

Cox declined to give specific numbers for his business, citing proprietary issues. The company is privately held.

But Joe Lamond, head of the National Association of Music Merchants, said his member retail shops have seen a surge in music lessons and recreational musicianship among middle-aged customers that predates the recession but has been heightened by it.

REUTERS

Staff retention trumps hiring in job market

EMPLOYMENT Following many jobs losses in today's economy, employers are holding off on staff expansions and focusing efforts on keeping current headcount as they navigate through a tough economy.

This is according to the latest quarterly survey from CareerBuilder and USA Today. Those surveyed include 2,500 hiring managers and human resource professionals and over 4,400 workers.

"We'll be looking for the market to stabilize over the next three to six months, when you'll hopefully see (less) job losses," said Matt Ferguson, CEO of CareerBuilder.com. "Employers want to hold on to their talent and are taking measures to contain costs and bring in new revenue streams."

Some upcoming trends to expect:

- Trimming Perks and Benefits: Companies are taking interim measures to free up funds to weather the economic storm. Forty-two per cent of employers reported they experienced a cut in perks and benefits at their organizations in the first quarter of 2009; 31 per cent expect there will be cuts in the second quarter of 2009.
- Upgrading Talent Rosters: Twenty-three per cent of employers said they are taking this time, when hiring has slowed, to replace lower-performing employees with top talent that may not have been available in a healthier economy. Job seekers who stand to benefit the most include those operating in sales, accounting/finance, retail and customer service.
- Postponing Retirement: Six-in-ten workers (60 per cent) over the age of 60 said, in a separate survey, they are putting off their retirement due to the impact of the financial crisis on their long-term savings. The majority (73 per cent) anticipate it will take them up to six years to recoup lost savings.
- Transferring Skills: Seventy-one per cent of workers who were laid off and have not found work said they are looking for jobs outside of their chosen profession either because they're ready for a change or there are no available jobs in their field. Most hiring managers state they would hire someone who didn't have experience in their profession, but had transferable skills.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Layoffs

- Twenty-two per cent of hiring managers reported there were layoffs at their locations in the first quarter of 2009, up from 11 per cent this time last year.

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TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING BCIT

YouTube creates page for educational content
YouTube has unveiled a new section called YouTube EDU, a hub for material submitted by colleges and universities. The site features complete lectures from about 200 full college courses. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Web browsing good for work

Caught Twittering or on Facebook at work? It'll make you a better employee, according to an Australian study that shows surfing the Internet for fun during office hours increases productivity.

The University of Melbourne study showed that people who use the Internet for personal reasons at work are about 9 per cent more productive than those who do not.

Study author Brent Coker, from the department of management and marketing, said "workplace Internet leisure browsing," or WILB, helped to sharpened workers' concentration.

"People need to zone out for a bit to get back their concentration," Coker said on the university's website.

"Short and unobtrusive breaks, such as a quick surf of the Internet, enables the mind to rest itself, leading to a higher total net concentration for a day's work, and as a result, increased productivity," he said.

A recent study indicated that "workplace Internet leisure browsing" helped to sharpened workers' concentration.

According to the study of 300 workers, 70 per cent of people who use the Internet at work engage in WILB.

Among the most popular WILB activities are searching for information about products, reading online news sites, playing online games and watching videos on YouTube.

"Firms spend millions on software to block their employees from watching videos, using social networking sites or shopping online under the pretence that it costs millions in lost productivity," said Coker. "That's not always the case."

"Firms (are) under the pretence that (web surfing in the office) costs millions in lost productivity. That's not always the case."
Brent Coker

However, Coker said the study looked at people who browsed in moderation, or were on the Internet for less than 20 per cent of their total time in the office.

"Those who behave with Internet addiction tendencies will have a lower productivity than those without," he said. REUTERS

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TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING
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Managers, staff not in synch for rewards

EMPLOYMENT Many managers underestimate the power of a pat on the back, new research suggests. While supervisors surveyed rated job promotions and cash as the two most valued forms of recognition to administrative professionals, support staff favoured a simple thank-you and having their accomplishments passed on to senior management.

The study was developed by OfficeTeam and the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) and includes responses from 549 administrative professionals in the United States and Canada along with 300 managers.

Top five forms of recognition (managers' responses)
- 1. Promotion;
- 2. Cash;
- 3. Paid time off;
- 4. Boss shares achievement;
- 5. In-person thank-you.

Top five forms of recognition (staff responses)
- 1. In-person thank-you;
- 1. Boss shares achievement (tied for first);
- 3. Promotion;
- 4. Membership to a professional association;
- 5. Registration for a conference or seminar.

The research also revealed how instrumental recognition is in attracting and retaining professionals, even in a soft economy.

Two out of three (66 per cent) administrative employees polled said they would likely leave their jobs if they did not feel appreciated by their manager. And seven out of 10 (70 per cent) support professionals said the company's recognition program would factor into their decision to accept a job with a potential employer.

"While financial rewards should not be overlooked, the research shows there are other ways to effectively recognize someone's commitment and dedication," said Robert Hosking, executive director of OfficeTeam. "Administrative professionals are working harder than ever, but their accomplishments usually occur behind the scenes. Therefore, praise from supervisors or colleagues that is specific, immediate and genuine can go a long way."

"When support staff receive association memberships or registration to a seminar or conference, both the employee and company benefit," said Barbara Horton, IAAP's 2008-09 international president.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Twilight breaks DVD record

Hit vampire movie Twilight has topped yet another chart — it is now the biggest home release of the year in the U.S. The film sold 5.6 million DVDs and Blu-Ray discs in its first week on sale, beating Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa as the most popular release of 2009. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Star Trek cameo

Hollywood bosses are hoping William Shatner will make a cameo appearance in a future Star Trek movie. The new film is being released on May 8 and a follow-up is already in the works. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Amy Poehler looks to imitate Tina Fey's leap with new sitcom

SNL star to take her time with civil-servant role in new sitcom from adapters of The Office

Leslie Knope, if you'll forgive the pun (and even if you won't), would appear to be Amy Poehler's polar opposite.

The character Poehler plays on her new sitcom, Parks and Recreation — debuting Thursday night on NBC and Citytv — is an intensely ambitious, very serious-minded, mid-level civil servant in the local government of small-town Pawnee, Ind.

Or, as Poehler joked: "I (play) a spy. And I can time travel. And I'm wearing someone else's face."

The show, co-created by The Office adapters Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, has been shrouded in mystery. The comedy was initially intended to be a spin-off of the NBC hit. "(But) at the time that was being described," admits Daniels, "we didn't have any ideas.

"There's another idea for a true spin-off that involves some Office characters, but once Amy became available to this project, we wanted to go in a direction to maximize what she could do."

"At the beginning of this process," continues Schur, "We said we would try to think of ideas that were spin-offs, and if we came up with something that we liked better, we thought would be a better show, that we would do that. And this was the idea that we really got excited about."

GETTY IMAGES

Amy Poehler stars in the new sitcom Parks and Recreation.

So did its designated star, Poehler, making a somewhat reluctant transition from sketch to sitcom after a successful seven years on Saturday Night Live cast.

It is a career path already well trodden by Poehler's former Weekend Update co-anchor and Baby Mama co-star Tina Fey. Is there any residual resentment there?

"Yeah," Poehler deadpans. "And then I turn around and I wake her up, and we have breakfast together."

As with Fey and 30 Rock, Poehler has embraced the comedic consistency that comes with the challenge of the unfamiliar new format.

"I was excited about the idea of being able to turn the volume down a little bit and sit with a character for a while," she says. "SNL is an amazing place to work, but the ideas and scenes and characters were very transient, and I was very excited about the idea of working with these guys.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Remedy for me

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Glycolic peels, light therapies, antibiotics — Roseanna Meas tried it all.

The 24-year-old aspiring actress from Etobicoke, Ont., has struggled with acne since adolescence and not one doctor has been able to cure the ailment that's followed her into adulthood.

"A lot of the treatments I had used were very abrasive — a lot of chemicals," said Meas.

Frustrated by traditional medicine's inability to clear her condition, Meas went in search of a natural remedy to mend her complexion. That's when she stumbled upon an online advertisement recruiting subjects for the new W Network television show Remedy Me!

The program — it begins airing tomorrow night — looks at one affliction per episode and follows two sufferers of it as they explore different alternative treatments. From restless-leg to irritable bowel syndromes, Remedy Me! uses solutions like hypnosis, reiki and traditional Chinese medicines to mar maladies.

Meas didn't experience anything too bizarre, undergoing regular acupuncture and drinking herbal concoctions. But show creator Janice Evans of Creative Atlantic Communications said some of the televised treatments — even acupuncture — are pretty dramatic to watch.

Remedy Me! airs Tuesday night on the W Network.

Made for TV

- Other ailments exposed on Remedy Me include gas, snoring, overactive bladders, headaches, hair loss, and excessive sweating.

"There was an acupuncturist that puts all the needles in, and then attaches little electrical wires to each one. Then she turns on a little kind of electrical jolt that goes through each of the needles that gets the chi moving," she said. "The woman looked like she was hooked up for Frankenstein."

But it's not the spectacle that encouraged Evans to develop the show. She said she was inspired by her long-time interest in alternative health, and the common dispersion of drugs-as-treatment due to an overburdened health care system. "Doctors don't have time to spend time with people on finding the solution that might work for them … I think anyone who takes the time and has that personal attention and believes in what they're doing is going to have progress."

Meas understands why some might be too embarrassed and expose their medical issues on TV, but for her desperation trumped anxiety. "I can feel for other people who have suffered with acne, so I figured I might as well just let myself be the guinea pig."

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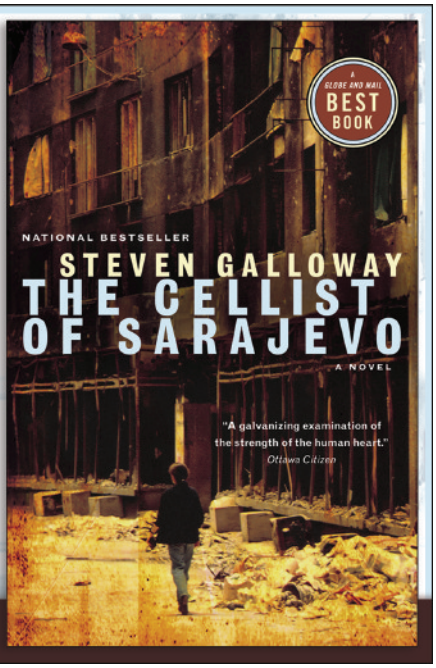
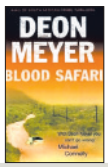


Read from the first chapter at RandomHouse.ca • VINTAGE CANADA

High stepping

Jessica Simpson was born wearing high heels. The singer-and-actress loves showing off her legs and refuses to sport flat shoes — even when she is at home. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Freya's family secrets



BookPicks

The Tricking of **Freya**

Author: Christina Sunley
Publisher: St. Martin's Press
Price: $28.95 (Hardcover)

Iceland plays itself in The Tricking of Freya, a coming-of-age story chronicling the family history and Scandinavian heritage of the novel's title character. Young Freya first meets her widowed mother's family in Gimli, Man. at age seven. Her trek from New York brings her close to her fierce Aunt Birdie, who insists she be schooled in Icelandic past, mythology and language. But Birdie's burying tension between her and Freya's mom; the reason Freya's never met her family until now. Sunley builds a travelogue to uncover Freya's family secret.

Blood **Safari**

Author: Deon Meyer
Publisher: Random House
Price: $32.95 (Hardcover)

When Cape Town brand consultant Emma le Roux is watching television one day, she sees a murder suspect that bears resemblance to her brother she thought dead 20 years ago. Convinced to find him, she enlists the help of Lemmer, a bodyguard with security company Body Armor. But Lemmer's an "Invisible" — a guard unlike the intimidating bodies known as "Gorillas" — with a short fuse and prone to violence. When the pair is attacked, Lemmer lets himself loose, set on finding their attackers. One wrong move will mean death for the pair, but if successful, Lemmer stands to break his "Invisible" tie and expose a globally threatening faction.

The Book of Night **Women**

Author: Marlon James
Publisher: Penguin Canada
Price: $29.50 (Hardcover)

The Night Women, sick of slavery, are planning a revolt against the slave masters on their 18th century Jamaican sugar plantation. The green-eyed group bands together, meeting regularly to plot the overtaking of the plantation. That's until Lilith is born, a girl the women believe has a mysterious power. As she ages, Lilith is taught to read and to understand the importance of a rebellion. But when she falls in love with Irish overseer Quinn, Lilith realizes what dire consequences a mutiny will cause for the plantation while trying to reconcile her urges with her upbringing.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

Eyeing Cannes contenders

FILM FEST As spring dawns, so does one of the film world's biggest questions, namely — what's in the Cannes?

The official announcement from Cannes film festival head Thierry Fremaux and his team of programmers regarding what's in store for the annual cinephile gathering won't take place for three weeks. But filmmakers, executives and sales agents are already buzzing about what will unspool at the event in May.

The consensus is a slate that mixes auteur fare and star-driven movies, though one that's a little light on high-profile U.S. films.

The most prominent motion picture, at least from a star-power standpoint, won't even have its main player there, as Terry Gilliam's The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, the last film from Heath Ledger, is expected to make its debut.

In addition to Gilliam's first appearance on the Croisette in more than a decade, a Parnassus debut also would offer the prospect of several stars — including Johnny Depp, Colin Farrell and Jude Law — who all stepped in to play different parts of Ledger's role after the actor died last year.

Aside from Pixar's Up, the animated film that will open Cannes, the festival has yet to confirm entrants. Still, many films are seen as probable candidates. Ang Lee's Taking Woodstock is seen as a strong candidate, assuming the director can finish it in time. REUTERS

Expected

- On the U.S. side, Francis Ford Coppola's Tetro, which the director plans on self-distributing, is a strong bet to land at Cannes. The movie starring Vincent Gallo and an international ensemble cast, tells the story of rivalry between artists in an Italian family.
- Quentin Tarantino's Inglorious Basterds, the Brad Pitt movie about a rogue group of American soldiers fighting Nazis in World War II, has been pegged as a Cannes title for several months and is expected to be at the festival.

Box office

Following are the top 10 films at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning April 3, led by the new release Fast & Furious, according to studio estimates compiled yesterday by Reuters:

1. **Fast & Furious:** $72.5 million
2. **Monsters vs. Aliens:** $33.5 million
3. **The Haunting in Connecticut:** $ 9.6 million
4. **Knowing:** $ 8.1 million
5. **I Love You, Man:** $ 7.9 million
6. **Adventureland:** $6.0 million
7. **Duplicity:** $4.3 million
8. **Race to Witch Mountain:** $3.4 million
9. **12 Rounds:** $2.3 million
10. **Sunshine Cleaning:** $1.9 million

REUTERS

4/6/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie	Comedy Fest	Comedy Fest.	CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News (N)	The Insider	The Soup	How I Met	My Boys	Engagement	True Hollywood Story (N)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas	CSI: Miami (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	The Practice "Duty Bound"		One Tree Hill (CC)		Scrubs (CC)	Randall Mark	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Simple Explanation"		Heroes (N) (CC)		24 "Day 7: Midnight - 1:00AM"		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Dancing With the Stars (Same-day Tape)			Corner Gas	(:02) Castle (N) (CC)		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (N) (CC)		Less-Kind	Surviving Sub.	Mantracker Steve and Jeff.		The List
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Gossip Girl "The Grandfather"		One Tree Hill (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	College Basketball: NCAA Tournament Final			Big Bang Th	How I Met	KIRO News	7 Special (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Chuck (N) (CC)		Heroes (N) (CC)		Medium "All in the Family" (N)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		Dollars-Sense	House	Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (Same-day Tape)			Surviving Sub.	(:02) Castle (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	How Stella Got Her Groove Back ★★ (1998) Angela Bassett.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (N) (CC)		Magnificent Mind at Any Age With Dr. Daniel Amen (CC)				Cliff Mass
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Simple Explanation"		24 "Day 7: Midnight - 1:00AM"		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	45 PBS	House of Life-Cemetery		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	64 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	Guthy-Renker	Family Court	Paid Program
	298	653	65 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl "The Grandfather"		One Tree Hill (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		(:35) Life on Mars (CC)		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	26 NW	Ten Trillion & Counting (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Ten Trillion & Counting (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Hockey	Canucks TV	MLB Season Preview		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	SportsCentre	ATP Tennis Sony Ericsson Open -- Final. From Miami. (Taped)				Score Golf	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Canada" (CC)		Mantracker (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	410	403	50 SCR	(6:00) College Basketball NCAA Tournament Final -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)					WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)			
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR		SuperCars	SuperCars	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Alemán			Ole: La Liga		Gol TV News	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Karaoke Star Junior (N) (CC)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	League-Evil	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach "Starting Over"		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN (CC)	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama (N)	Punch (CC)	Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53 TRE	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Undersea	Landscape	The Museum	The Museum	Hans Hofmann: Artist/Teacher		Commanding Heights		Haida Art
	575	583	20 CMT	Country Music Awards		Karaoke Star Junior (CC)		The 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards (Live) (CC)				
	570	580	24 MM	MuchNews	Video on Trial	MuchVibe (CC)		Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		MuchTopTens (N) (CC)		MuchNews
	600	564	29 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Property	Income Prop.	My First Place	For Rent	House
	615	520	31 A&E	Paranormal	Paranormal	Psychic Kids: Paranormal		Intervention: Heroin		Intervention "Angelina" (CC)		Paranormal
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) Ultimate Fighting Championship 89: Bisping vs. Leben				CSI: NY "The Lying Game"		Spike's Most Amazing Videos		Disorderly
	521	560	34 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Little People	Little People	Table for 12	Table for 12	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Little People
	616	522	39 SHO	The Outer Limits "Living Hell"		Cashing In	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Earl	The Office	House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	(6:00) Duetti D'Amore (CC)		Law & Order "Identity" (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		Judy Berlin ★★ (1999) Barbara Barrie. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Project Runway Canada		ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Spouses		Paradise Hotel
	520	505	42 DIS	The Detonators "Glasgow"		Daily Planet (CC)		Dirty Jobs "Big Animal Vet"		The Detonators "Glasgow"		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Brothers in Arms"		Hero Ships (CC)		Last Flight to Berlin		NCIS "Brothers in Arms"		Sea Hunters
	627	528	45 SPC	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager "Coda"		Star Trek: Ent.
	294	650	57 TBS	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles ★ (2001) Paul Hogan. (CC)			
	619	525	48 TROP	Vanity	Reality	Reality	E News	Ground Up		Are You Smarter		Make
	603	561	52 FN	Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Work for Food	Glutton	Food
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Katt Williams Live (CC)		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Sanctuary "Revelations"		U.S. of Tara	Tracey Ullman	The Line (N) (CC)		Secret Diary	Secret Diary	Sanctuary
	581	566	101 MTV	The Hills	The Hills	The Hills-Lnch	MTV Live	The Girls of Hedsor Hall		The Hills	The Hills	The Hills-Lnch
	261	394	102 V	Last Seven Words		National Catholic Mission		Acts	Acts	Last Seven Words		Paid Program
	-	-	109 MUL	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Can't Live Without Her		Marimar		Pinoy	Pinoy Records	Patrol World

critics'corner

Heroes

Danko (guest star Zeljko Ivanek) spearheads the government operation, taking it to a whole new level and putting someone close to him in the line of fire. As HRG's (Jack Coleman) life spins out of control, his marriage approaches the breaking point. Angela (Cristine Rose) unearths some personal demons. Hayden Panettiere also stars in the new episode "Turn and Face the Strange." 4 PM on STR, 9 PM on NBC GTV

Royal Winnipeg Ballet: 40 Years of One Night Stands

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet is truly a national treasure, but if you're not a balletomane, you may know little to nothing about it. That will change when you watch this special, a loving portrait of the company that was formed in the 1950s as a "portable, touring ballet for the masses" and has been seen everywhere from mining towns to international festivals. Former company members, dance critics and stunning film clips help tell its story. 5 PM on BVO

Paul Gross' war film tops Genies

AWARDS Paul Gross' First World War film Passchendaele was the big winner at the Genie Awards in Ottawa on Saturday night. The film won six awards, including best motion picture. The other big winner of the evening was The Necessities of Life (Ce qu'il faut pour vivre). Among its awards were wins for best director and actor.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

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For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

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THE END?
THE HILLS
PREMIERES
TONIGHT
10PM
FOLLOWED BY
THE AFTER SHOW
ONLY 9
MUST SEE
NEW EPISODES
mtv.ca/thehills
to be revealed on MTV

Fawcett is hospitalized

Farrah Fawcett has been hospitalized in Los Angeles since Thursday, the latest setback in her long battle with cancer, people.com is reporting. The 62-year-old actress has undergone chemotherapy and aggressive alternative treatments in the past. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Brady & Bündchen wed, again

MARRIAGE Tom Brady and Gisele Bündchen exchanged vows in a short sunset ceremony at her home in Costa Rica early Saturday evening, people.com reports.

The bride, in a long designer dress and a veil that trailed 10 feet, and holding a bouquet of white orchids, "looked so gorgeous," a source tells People. "She looked beautiful."

Security guards blocked off key access points to Bündchen's house in Santa Teresa, where 25 or so guests gathered under a tent set up on the home's balcony.

After the ceremony, Brady, 31, in a gray suit and vest with white pants, held his son John on the balcony and spoke with guests like Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots. Bündchen, 28, also hugged guests while friends and relatives snapped photos.

They all seemed "very happy, like they were having a great time," says one onlooker.

Earlier that day, Brady hosted a bachelor's brunch for the men in his entourage at the luxurious Milarepa hotel, where guests dined.

Meanwhile Bündchen entertained female guests and went over last-minute wedding details at her home.

The separate his-and-her gatherings were the final lead up to three days of pre-wedding celebrations before the couple's second set of nuptials. They officially wed in an intimate ceremony in Santa Monica, Calif., in February.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Levi's sex talk with Tyra

RELATIONSHIP A rep for the Palin family is slamming Levi Johnston — the 18-year-old father of Bristol Palin's newborn son — for blabbing about the couple's sex life on the Tyra Banks Show, usmagazine.com reports.

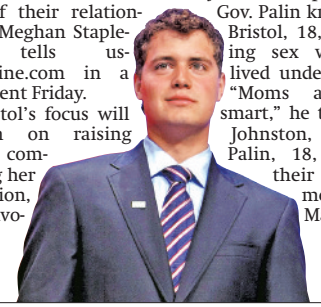
"We're disappointed that Levi and his family, in a quest for fame, attention and fortune, are engaging in flat-out lies, gross exaggeration, and even distortion of their relationship," Meghan Stapleton tells usmagazine.com in a statement Friday.

"Bristol's focus will remain on raising Tripp, completing her education, and advocating abstinence," Stapleton continues. "It is unfortunate that Levi finds it more appealing to exploit his previous relationship with Bristol than to contribute to the well-being of the child.

"Bristol realizes now that she made a mistake in her relationship and is the one taking responsibility for their actions," Stapleton concludes.

On the show Johnston says he was "pretty sure" Gov. Palin knew he and Bristol, 18, were having sex when they lived under her roof. "Moms are pretty smart," he tells Banks. Johnston, 19 and Palin, 18, called of their engagement in March.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Spears not a rock star, says Nicks

MUSIC Britney Spears may have suffered a lot of hard knocks, but it's not enough to earn her the moniker "rock star" — at least not according to Stevie Nicks.

"You have to pay dues to be a real rock star," the former Fleetwood Mac singer told Extra! recently. "Britney did not join a band when she was 18 and practice every day for five hours Monday through Friday and then play gigs Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Guy calls ex 'great mum'

PEOPLE British director Guy Richie called his ex-wife Madonna "a great mum" following news that the singer's bid to adopt a second child from Malawi was rejected Friday, people.com reports.

Richie, 40, father to the couple's son Rocco and David Banda — the Malawian boy he and Madonna officially adopted in 2008 — issued a statement through his rep saying: "I fully supported Madonna in her decision to apply for this adoption, and I am saddened that her application has been rejected. She is motivated only by being a caring parent who seeks to share some of the advantages and opportunities that her life has given her."

A judge in Malawi blocked Madonna's attempt to adopt Mercy James, three, citing a residency rule for prospective parents that requires they spend from 18 to 24 months in the country — that requirement was waived for Madonna's first adoption.

Madonna, 50, has filed an appeal to the ruling.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna's jet setting

CAREER Rihanna's jet-setting continued this week, usmagazine.com reports.

After hitting Hawaii and New York City in the same week, the singer, 21, returned home to her native Barbados on Friday. She is helping her grandparents celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

"Yeah (she's back)," her father Ronald Fenty told usmagazine.com Friday in a telephone interview. "She just got in a couple hours ago. I will see her tomorrow."

He says they would "probably do lunch" during her weekend trip home. "Of course, I'm happy to have her home. Things are good with her," Fenty told Us. "She is doing really, really well. She's back to herself again."

It remains to be seen whether Rihanna will attend Chris Brown's arraignment today in Los Angeles Superior Court. The singer, 19, is expected to enter a plea to two felony counts of assault and making criminal threats after allegedly beating Rihanna Feb. 8 in L.A.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cyrus strives to act responsibly

FAMILY Miley Cyrus is terrified of disappointing her parents, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Hannah Montana star is determined never to go off the rails like many child stars.

The 16-year-old actress said: "I think it's selfish to go out partying all the time, especially if you have little ones in your family. I have a nine-year-old sister, and I don't want her to go to school and have people make fun of her for it."

However, Cyrus — who shot to fame at the tender age of 12 — admits it's hard to resist temptation living in Hollywood.

She added to America's Glamour magazine: "At one of the very first awards shows I ever did, there was a bottle of vodka in my gift bag. No one cared that they were giving this to a 12-year-old."

On his radio show, Ryan Seacrest recently asked her if she plans on marrying her boyfriend, Justin Gaston. "If he gets a pretty ring," Cyrus joked. But her mom was quick to defuse the drama the next day.

"When I was 16, I defiantly thought that too, I was going to marry early," Tish Cyrus told Hollyscoop. "She's got a lot of growing up to do."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

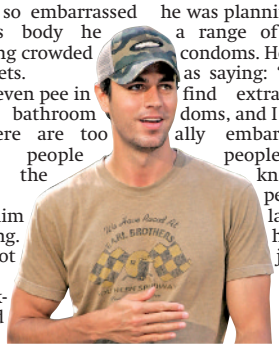
Iglesias is shy of his body

IMAGE Enrique Iglesias is too shy to urinate in front of other people, femalefirst.co.uk alleges. The Hero singer, who previously claimed he has a "small penis," is so embarrassed about his body he avoids using crowded public toilets.

"I can't even pee in a public bathroom when there are too many people around," the website quotes him as saying. "I'm not comfortable walking around naked. I walk around my house in underwear, but I sometimes feel my housekeeper gets embarrassed."

In 2005, Enrique shocked his fans by saying he was planning to launch a range of extra-small condoms. He was quoted as saying: "I can never find extra-small condoms, and I know it's really embarrassing for people — you know, from experience." He later insisted he had been joking.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Winehouse hides out in St. Lucia

PEOPLE Though she returned to London as promised when husband Blake Fielder-Civil was released from prison, Amy Winehouse is back in St. Lucia. The troubled singer spent 70 days hiding out in the Caribbean paradise while dealing with her personal demons, and sources say she's returned this time to start work on the follow-up to her hit Back to Black album, according to MTV UK.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Lohan restrained by security at Ronson party

PEOPLE Things are definitely looking bad for Lindsay Lohan's relationship with Samantha Ronson. The celebrity DJ was recently working a party at Bar Marmont in L.A. for sister Charlotte Ronson's clothing line, and security was reportedly under strict orders to keep an eye out for Lohan, according to OK magazine.

But the actress showed up anyway, and had to be "restrained from coming in by five security guards," according to an eyewitness. "Lindsay knew she was unwanted, but came anyway, to no avail," said another source.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Tuesday Mainly sunny 16°/ 8°
Wednesday Partly cloudy 13°/ 8°
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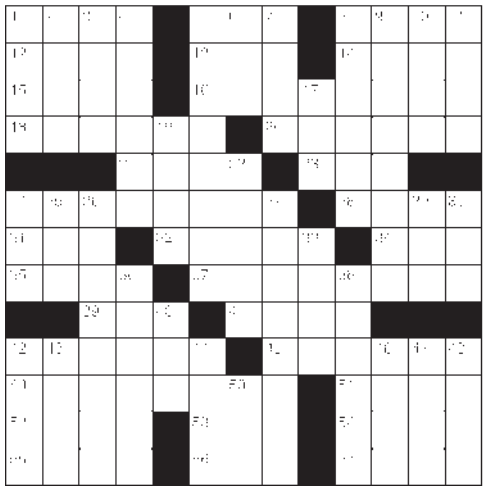
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Q-tip tip
5 Silent
8 Cold War weapon, for short
12 Easter flower
13 Rage
14 — contendere
15 Initial stake
16 White bloom
18 "Bread"
20 From what place
21 Actor Baldwin
23 Evergreen type
24 Grow uncontrollably
28 Moist
31 Body of water (Abbr.)
32 The Ram
34 Falsehood
35 Oil cartel
37 Skier's slowing manoeuvre
39 Greek consonant
41 Growl
42 Aft
45 Stuck, sort of
49 Anne Murray classic
51 Christmas
52 Cattle
53 U.S. spy org.
54 And others (Lat.)
55 Raced
56 Type units
57 Landlord's due

Crossword down

1 Bridge coup
2 Drunkard
3 Choir voice
4 Local ordinance (Var.)
5 Gets the info wrong
6 Grecian vessel
7 Cat call?
8 Certainly
9 County of England
10 United nations
11 Sulk
17 Kid's query
19 Actress Jessica
22 Adhere
24 "No seats" sign
25 Pinch
26 Nuance
27 Ancient Spartan king
29 "O Sole —"
30 Church seat
33 Graceful bird
36 Masticated
38 Orison
40 Sphere
42 Requests
43 Quick cut
44 Pleasant
46 Burlap fibre
47 "Two and a Half Men" role
48 Dissolve
50 Edge

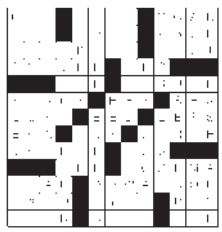
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	6	2	5		9	4	3	
8	9						1	5
		1	7		2	8		
	8			3			4	
		7	1		4	6		
5	3						7	6
	2	4	8		3	5	9	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



3	5	8	7	2	1	6	9	4
2	9	4	5	6	3	7	1	8
6	1	7	4	8	9	3	2	5
5	2	6	9	7	4	8	3	1
1	4	9	6	3	8	5	7	2
8	7	3	2	1	5	4	6	9
9	8	2	3	5	7	1	4	6
4	3	1	8	9	6	2	5	7
7	6	5	1	4	2	9	8	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Spanish-Style Chicken

INGREDIENTS:
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
1 medium red onion
1 clove garlic
1 red pepper and 1 yellow pepper
1 can (19 oz/540 ml) chopped tomatoes
2/3 cup (150 ml) dry white wine
1 tbsp paprika
2 3/4 oz (75 g) chorizo sausage
1 tbsp (25 g) pitted black olives
Salt and black pepper
To garnish: A bunch of parsley

METHOD:
1. Heat oil in large flameproof casserole pan or braising pan, then cut chicken thighs in half and fry over a high heat until golden.
2. Peel and thinly slice onion and peel and crush the garlic. Add to chicken. Rinse and slice peppers and add to chicken. Fry until peppers are lightly browned and slightly softened.
3. Stir in tomatoes, wine and paprika and bring to boil. Slice chorizo thickly and add, then simmer 15 minutes, or until chicken is cooked.
4. Halve olives, add to casserole pan, then season to taste. Rinse, dry and chop parsley. Garnish with parsley and serve with crusty bread.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Make a heroic attempt to take the blame for a mistake. A craving can't be ignored. An insightful dream supplies inspiration.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A thrilling person teaches you a new way of relating. Your prospects convince someone to give aid. A legal issue causes a mishap.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Someone is forced to change a routine. You want to learn something too fast. You'll find that a problem has already been solved.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Ask permission before forcing your opinions on anyone. A young guy makes you chuckle. It's a bad idea to demand a handout.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Good luck comes when strong feelings are shared. A quarrelsome person needs a time-out. Your actions are respected.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A whining woman behaves arrogantly. Don't refuse to release a friend from a promise. A man must bed down early tonight.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A former enemy has a shift in convictions. An introvert has gained too much weight. An old companion will re-enter your life.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
A team-mate will make a move. Don't just fade away after confusion clears up. A strange revelation brings you some joy.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
There'll be questions about an infatuation. Candid comments affect your work. Relationship changes won't be appreciated.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Be cautious during a surprising encounter. Get comfortable with a melodramatic person. Overcome a challenge to your honour.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A pleased person passes on a valuable bonus. Pride grows after being flattered. A mature friend lifts you out of exhaustion.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A fated couple has a weird encounter. An authority figure insists on rules being obeyed. A benefit comes from dealing with a spoiled brat.

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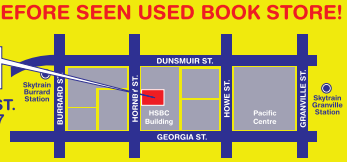

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2748 Rupert St.
1 - 525 Seymour St.
150 - 625 Howe St.
105 - 950 West Broadway
1707 Robson St.
1092 Kingsway
10 - 3490 Kingsway

Aldergrove
310 - 26310 Fraser Hwy.

Abbotsford
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
2 - 32915 South Fraser Way
1 - 2142 Clearbrook Rd.
401 - 2140 Sumas Way

Burnaby
Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
214B - 4501 North Rd.
4711 Kingsway
7531 Market Crossing
111 - 3823 Henning Dr.
204B - 3430 Brighton Ave.

Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
103 - 45300 Luckakuck Way
11 - 45905 Yale Rd.
7544B Vedder Rd.

Cloverdale
201 - 17725 64th Ave.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
101 - 3278 Westwood St.
5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2700B Barnet Hwy.
22 - 2988 Glen Dr.
2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

Delta
Scottsdale Mall
7235 120th St.
1517 56th St.

Langley
Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
3 - 19638 Fraser Hwy.
103 - 19700 Langley Bypass
C104 - 20159 88th Ave.
19971 96th Ave.
C7 - 20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
22661 Lougheed Hwy.

Mission
100 - 32670 Lougheed Hwy.
318 - 32555 London Ave.

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Port Moody
202 Newport Dr.

Pitt Meadows
735 - 19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond
Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Centre Mall
Ironwood Mall
Lansdowne Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Guildford Town Centre
201 - 13734 104th Ave.
135 - 12477 88th Ave.
2404 King George Hwy.
1675 128th St.
108 - 7380 King George Hwy.
403 - 15940 Fraser Hwy.
10310A 152nd St.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre
North/South

White Rock
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
10 - 3189 King George Hwy.

OKANAGAN/NORTHERN BC

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Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Penticton)
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